



A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug-trade.
ESTABLISHED 1859.

Head Office, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Branch Offices

Melbourne, Vic. ..	231 Elizabeth Street.
Sydney, N.S.W. ..	114 Pitt Street.
Adelaide, S.A. ..	76 Brookman's Building, Grenfell Street
New York, U.S.A. ..	Park Row Building.

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Ten shillings a year in advance, post free to any part of the world, including a copy of *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY* next published. Single copy, 4d.; Summer or Winter Number, 1s.; *DIARY*, 3s. 6d. Postal orders and cheques to be crossed "Martin's Bank (Limited)."

THIS JOURNAL is regularly supplied by subscription to the whole of the Members of SIXTEEN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES in the British Empire. The associate Journal, *The Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*, published at Melbourne and Sydney, is also supplied to all Australasian subscribers.

Terms for advertising may be obtained on application to the Publisher, C. & D., 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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COLONIAL TRADE.

If there is one thing more certain than another regarding the future export trade of the United Kingdom, it is that the population of our Empire beyond the seas will be our best customers. The national statistics prove this, the imperialistic spirit maintains it, and it behoves manufacturers and merchants to encourage it. The encouragement of colonial trade has been one of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGISTS'* strong points from the outset. Through our annual Colonial Issue we give an exceptional opportunity for advertisers to increase their business with the colonies. This issue will be on April 20, and, in addition to those who receive it weekly, it will be sent to all buyers of druggists' goods in India, Burmah, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Federated Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, China, Japan, and the West Indies. The Publisher will give any inquirer information regarding this important issue.

"PHARMACEUTICAL TESTING" (Mr. B. S. Proctor) contains easily-applied tests for ensuring the purity of chemicals for use at the counter. Price 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 9d., from the C. & D. office, 42 Cannon Street, E.C.

Summary.

THIS ISSUE contains news up to Wednesday, April 3, when we went to press.

M. JULLIARD, the oldest Parisian pharmacist, is dead (p. 547).

A COLUMN of DRUG-CONTRACTS which have been settled is a feature on p. 544.

A FURTHER BUDGET of news from the front, especially dealing with R.A.M.C. matters, is printed on p. 548.

CARDIFF CHEMISTS, in addition to voting for Lord Avebury's Bill, have resolved to close at 8 P.M. (p. 553).

MR. GLYN-JONES had a motion which was ruled out of order at the Pharmaceutical Council meeting (p. 576).

THE END OF THE WINTER SESSION is signalled by much feasting. We report dinners in London, Grimsby, and Glasgow (p. 550).

SOMETHING more about arsenio-tests was elicited at the Society of Chemical Industry meetings in London and Manchester this week (p. 552).

AT DUNGANNON, in Ireland, it has been held, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, that grocers should sell cream of tartar of B.P. quality (p. 546).

EITHER chemists are unusually honoured municipally this year or we have got at their appointments better. There is a further list on pp. 544-5.

THE list of medical advisers to King Edward VII. and his household is given on p. 568, along with the corresponding list sanctioned by our late Queen.

"POLISH" was the subject of an informing lecture by Lord Rayleigh at the London Institution, which is reported on p. 552. It deals with glass, not manners.

MR. J. B. KENNEDY, the medical-dispenser who gave strychnine for antonin, obtained the benefit of the doubt in the charge of manslaughter against him (p. 545).

OPPOSITION TO THE PHARMACY BILL from within is becoming rather pronounced. The Glasgow Association does not like it (p. 551), and Mr. Maud is dead against it (p. 570).

SEVERAL NEW ALKALOIDS have been found in tobacco, and Pinner and Kohlhammer have more to say about pilocarpus constituents; all of which we refer to in an article on p. 559.

A CITY OF LONDON firm of druggists have the misfortune to get their shop-window broken annually by a man who gets a year's imprisonment for the job. He is again under arrest (p. 545).

THE Pharmaceutical Society has made a raid upon unqualified assistants in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. In the latter place imprisonment has been inflicted as an alternative to the fine (p. 563).

PRUSSIAN PHARMACISTS are delighted because they have obtained a Government Chamber composed of their own representatives to which all pharmaceutical legislation will be referred (p. 560).

MR. PETER WYATT SQUIRE has been appointed chemist and druggist to King Edward VII.'s household (p. 556). We give some facts about the origin of the appointment and a portrait of Mr. Squire on p. 568.

MR. FRED REYNOLDS this week supplies an amusing cartoon of the Leeds Pow-wow on the Pharmacy Bill, Mr. W. H. Scott, a coming librettist, giving appropriate comment in the shape of a travesty of *Hiawatha* (p. 555).

A GENERAL ANALYSIS of our early-closing vote is given in an Editorial note beginning on p. 558. The drug-trade of the country is overwhelmingly in favour of Lord Avebury's Bill, and the Pharmaceutical Council on Wednesday resolved to support it (p. 574).

THIS is a holiday week, and business on the markets is dull in consequence, with few price-alterations. German refined camphor is ½d. higher; cod-liver oil is lower, so is chlorate of potash and copper-sulphate. Quinine had a spurt at the end of last week, but has since lost the improvement (p. 572).

SEVENTEEN PERSONS are to compete for the seven vacancies on the Pharmaceutical Council in May. Their names are Messrs. C. B. Allen, S. R. Atkins, A. S. Campkin, O. Corder, R. L. Gifford, G. P. Gostling, H. Kemp (Manchester), J. Mackenzie (Edinburgh), D. McLaren (Edinburgh), W. Martindale, J. W. T. Morrison, G. T. W. Newsholme, J. Paterson (Aberdeen), S. N. Pickard (Ossett), C. E. Pickering, A. L. Savory, and J. B. Stephenson (p. 574).

English News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

A wine-licence has been granted to Mr. Charles Dickinson, chemist, 119 South End, Croydon.

A grocer at Ullenhall has been fined 10s. and costs for selling camphorated oil not of the nature and quality demanded.

In conjunction with the other tradesmen the chemists of Hanley and Burslem have decided to close their places of business every Thursday at 1 o'clock.

Henry Thomas Chalon has been remanded at Hanley on a charge of obtaining 1*l.* by false pretences from Mr. Waltern Hartle, chemist and druggist, Shelton.

Mr. Pooley, the Essex county analyst, has written to the County Council, stating that his work has increased to such an extent that the appointment of an additional analyst is necessary.

A Coroner's inquiry at Pontardulais found that John Phillips, described as a chemist, died at his brother's house in that town from syncope, following phthisis, accelerated by bodily neglect and want of nourishment.

The President of the Colne Ambulance Corps, Mr. W. Wilkinson, chemist and druggist, Church Street, has received an acknowledgment from Sir Dighton Probyn of a loyal address of condolence and congratulation addressed to the King and Queen.

At Yarmouth a Chamber of Commerce has been formed for the promotion of trade interests and to form a means of expressing the views of traders on local and other questions. Mr. H. Chamberlin has been appointed Secretary, and the new organisation is influentially supported.

George Pierce, 36, who had been for about sixteen years in the employ of Messrs. Gale & Co., wholesale druggists, Bouverie Street, E.C., was fined 20s. or seven days at the Lord Mayor's Court on March 29 for stealing a bottle of liquorice-powder, a bottle of glycerin, and other things.

The Shrewsbury dispensary appears to be in a fairly flourishing condition. According to the report 949 members were enrolled last year, and 676 members medically attended. A sum of 876*l.* had been spent on drugs, appliances, nurses, and medical officers. There is still a balance of 205*l.* at the banker's, and a total capital of 2,421*l.*

At the weekly meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday it was resolved, on the recommendation of the Water Committee, to authorise the chemist to continue the analysis of water from the Thames and Lea above the companies' intakes, and of the water drawn from the companies' mains for a further period of three months from April 1, at an expenditure of 27*l.* a week. It was resolved that the Asylums Committee should be authorised to arrange with Messrs. Macmillan & Co. (Limited) for the printing of the second volume of the "Archives of the Pathological Laboratory."

Postal Extension.

The Postmaster-General has arranged for the establishment of a money-order service between the United Kingdom and the British Central Africa Protectorate. Orders may now be obtained at any money-order office in the United Kingdom for payment at Blantyre, Fort Johnston, and Zomba, at which offices orders will be issued for payment in this country.

Contracts.

An additional list of drug-contracts settled with public bodies is as follows:—

Amersham Union.—Mr. A. H. Haddon, chemist and druggist, Amersham, for cod-liver oil.

Barrow-on-Soar Union.—Mr. W. F. Charles, chemist and druggist, for drugs and dispensing.

Bedford Union.—Mr. J. S. Norman, pharmaceutical chemist, for drugs and dispensing.

Belper Union.—Mr. C. W. Southern, chemist and druggist, for druggists' requisites.

Bromley and Beckenham Joint Hospital.—The General Apothecaries' Company, for drugs.

Burton-on-Trent Union.—Liverpool Lint Company, for surgical dressings.

Coventry Union.—Mr. T. Sellors, chemist and druggist, for drugs and dispensing.

Dewsbury Union.—Mr. G. N. Gutteridge, chemist and druggist, for drugs.

Dorking Union.—Mr. F. W. Doubleday, chemist and druggist, 78 High Street, for cod-liver oil.

Dover Union.—Mr. Thompson, chemist and druggist, New Bridge, Dover, for drugs and chemicals at 21 per cent. below schedule prices.

East Grinstead Union.—Mr. H. S. Martin, chemist and druggist, High Street, East Grinstead, for hospital-requisites and drugs.

East Preston Union.—Mr. Geo. Light, chemist and druggist, Arundel, for quinine at 1*s.* 9*d.* per oz., and cod-liver oil at 5*s.* 3*d.* per gal.

Faversham Rural District Council.—Mr. R. B. G. Silver-sides has been appointed chemist.

Finsbury Borough Council.—Messrs. Dussek Brothers, Verney Road, S.E., for carbolic acid and carbolic powder; Sanitas Company (Limited), for formic-aldehyde solution and sulphur. The other firms who tendered were Middleton Brothers, St. George Street, S.E.; McDougall Brothers, 10 Mark Lane, E.C.; C. W. Lowe, Manchester; Adcock, Easton & Co., Charteris Works, Finsbury Park, N.; and Brooke, Simpson & Spiller (Limited), Atlas Works, Hackney Wick, N.E.

Gravesend Union.—Mr. E. Millhouse, chemist and druggist, Gravesend, for drugs.

Ludlow Union.—Mr. J. H. Suttle, chemist and druggist, Castle Street, Ludlow, for cod-liver oil, quinine, and linseed.

Malmesbury Union.—Mr. H. N. Ratcliffe, pharmaceutical chemist, for carbolic soap at 18*s.* per cwt., and waterproof sheeting.

Peterborough Union.—Mr. T. J. Calcutt, chemist and druggist, for drugs.

Runcorn Union.—The executors of the late Mr. I. Speakman, chemist and druggist, Runcorn, for drugs; Messrs. Newton, Chambers & Co. (Limited), Sheffield, for disinfectants.

Stone (Staffs) Union.—Mr. F. Jacks, chemist and druggist, for a waterbed and hospital-appliances; Messrs. Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool, for linseed oil at 3*s.* per gal., boiled linseed oil at 3*s.* 2*d.* per gal., white-lead at 29*s.* per cwt., turpentine 3*s.* 4*d.* per gal.

Worcester Board of Guardians.—Messrs. Anderson & Virgo, chemists, Forgeate, for drugs for St. John's district; Mr. Thomas Lunn, chemist, for Barbourne district; and Mr. John A. Steward, chemist, High Street, for Southside district.

The Cannock Guardians recently proposed to increase the salary of Dr. Riley, workhouse medical officer, from 65*l.* to 135*l.*, the latter sum to include the supply of all drugs. The Local Government Board, however, have written suggesting that the Guardians should supply the drugs.

At a meeting of the Stroud Board of Guardians on March 27 it was moved that the medical officers should be paid a fixed sum, and that the drugs and medicines supplied by them should be paid for at a scale to be fixed by the Board. Mr. S. J. Coley, chemist and druggist, Stroud, who seconded the motion, stated that previously he had supported a proposal to establish a dispensary with a paid dispenser because it placed the supply of medicines to the poor on a better footing. The motion was opposed on the ground that any change in the present arrangement would be throwing a slur on the medical officers, and on a division the motion was negatived.

Chemists in Public Life.

A further list of public honours to members of the trade is appended:—

Mr. Page Woodcock, pill-manufacturer, Lincoln, has been appointed an overseer of the poor.

Mr. W. C. Fitch, chemist and druggist, Littleport, has been elected a member of the Parish Council.

Mr. James M. Weller, chemist and druggist, Long Stratton, has been elected to the Rural District Council.

Mr. W. E. Goff, pharmaceutical chemist, Dartford, has been re-elected a member of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Alfred Thorby Long, pharmaceutical chemist, Bognor, has been elected a member of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Joseph Straughton, chemist and druggist, Cockermouth, has been elected a member of the Urban District Council.

Mr. G. A. Hodgkinson, chemist and druggist, Somers Town, N.W., has been elected to the St. Pancras Board of Guardians.

Mr. A. E. Ekins, F.I.C., F.C.S., pharmaceutical chemist, St. Albans, obtained top place at the poll for election to the St. Albans Board of Guardians.

Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, has been re-elected without opposition to the Sheffield Board of Guardians.

Mr. William Powell Bowman, of Goodall, Backhouse & Co., wholesale druggist, Leeds, and Mr. Henry Ard Watson, manufacturing chemist, Leeds, have been appointed overseers of the township.

Mr. Stephen Taylor, chemist and druggist, Barrow-in-Furness, has been returned at the top of the poll at the recent election of Guardians. There were twenty-seven candidates for twelve vacancies.

Mr. O. B. Wilson, chemist and druggist, Norwich, has been appointed an overseer for the parish of St. John de Sepulchre. Mr. J. de Cuir Smith, chemist and druggist, has been appointed an overseer for St. Saviour's parish.

Mr. D. Yates, chemist and druggist, has been re-elected a member of the Blackburn Board of Guardians and of the Rural District Council.

Mr. G. Peck, chemist and druggist, Cambridge, has been elected on the Board of Guardians.

Mr. J. A. Butler, chemist and druggist, 108 Fosse Road, Leicester, has been elected a member of the Board of Guardians.

Sale of Chemists' Effects.

Owing to the death of Mrs. Price, widow of the late Councillor William Price, pharmaceutical chemist, Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, the leasehold premises and debentures and shares belonging to the estate were sold by public auction on April 1. The leasehold premises at 172 Bromsgrove Street were knocked down to Mr. S. B. White (Mr. Price's successor) for 800*l.* Amongst the shares sold were several *l.* preference Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited). These realised *l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* each, and some of A. J. White (Limited) fetched a trifle over 5*s.* each.

The Strychnine-for-Santonin Case.

James Bryan Kennedy appeared again before the Wakefield Magistrates on April 1, to answer the charge of causing the death of three children at Normanton, by dispensing strychnine in place of the santonin prescribed by his employer, Dr. Mackenzie (*C. & D.*, March 9, page 378). The police-superintendent, who prosecuted, alleged culpable negligence, and produced the two bottles containing the strychnine and santonin. The bottles were shown to be totally different in shape, and while one was green in colour the other was white. The Magistrates ultimately decided that there had been very great negligence, but said they were not satisfied that it amounted to such criminal negligence as would warrant them in sending the accused for trial, and he was therefore discharged.

A Sudden Temptation.

John Bernard Murless, a chemist's assistant, appeared at Ilkerton Sessions on March 28 charged with attempting suicide by taking $\frac{1}{2}$ dr. of acetate of morphine. On promising not to repeat the offence prisoner was discharged, but was immediately re-arrested on a charge of stealing 18*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* from his employers at Tunbridge Wells. The hearing of the latter charge took place at Tunbridge Wells Borough Police Court on March 30. Mr. James Scott Tute, chemist and druggist, Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, said prisoner, who was his assistant, was sent to the bank with the money, but he never returned. Apart from the present offence, he had always found the young man most exemplary in all his ways. Prisoner pleaded guilty, and the Bench bound him over

under the First Offenders Act. Mrs. Murless, his mother, undertook to pay the prosecutor the amount he had lost.

A Dual Office.

The question as to whether the duties of public analyst and medical officer of health should be combined or not was discussed at some length, on March 27, by the Lewisham Borough Council. A committee recommended that a medical officer of health and public analyst be appointed at a salary of 800*l.* per annum—500*l.* as medical officer of health and 300*l.* as analyst—the Council to provide and furnish a laboratory. Councillor Garrard moved that the matter be referred back to the committee, as he was against a dual appointment. In seconding this Councillor Hart observed that, as Lewisham was the third largest borough in the metropolis, he thought the duties of the medical officer of health were sufficient to keep one man fully employed. After some further discussion the motion was seconded, but on being put to the vote was negatived, and subsequently the recommendation of the committee was agreed to.

The Annual Smash.

At the Guildhall on April 1, William Yetton (44) was charged with wilfully breaking a plate-glass window, value 7*l.* 10*s.*, the property of Messrs. Schacht, Warner & Co., chemists, 55 Fore Street, E.C. Prisoner deliberately threw a large stone through the window, smashing the glass and frame-work. The manager of the prosecuting firm said the window had been broken five or six times during the past seven years by the accused. The witness was present last year when Yetton was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour at the Central Criminal Court for breaking the window. The firm knew nothing of the prisoner. The window was insured, but he (witness) expected the insurance company would increase the premium after that case. The prisoner, who said he had no questions to ask, was committed for trial at the next session of the Central Criminal Court.

Fire.

A fatal fire occurred on April 1 in the sulphate-of-ammonia works of the Wandsworth and Putney Gas Light and Coke Company. A man named Fisher, who was "skimming" sulphuric acid on the second floor at the time the fire broke out, was burned to death, and a horse yoked to a van laden with coke in the yard outside was asphyxiated and afterwards destroyed by the fire.

Birmingham Notes.

At 235 Clifton Road, Sparkbrook, there was sold last Monday the valuable chemist's and druggist's stock in trade and fixtures by order of Mr. Aubrey Bilbie, who has given up the business.

The river and stream pollution in this city is great, owing to the discharge of galvanisers' pickle. It has been agreed by the offenders in conference to neutralise this, and now pharmacists may come along with the best idea for the purpose.

The food and drugs inspector has favoured the chemists of West Bromwich with a visit—the order was Friar's balsam—and up to the present nothing more has been heard, so it is concluded that the samples were not only the "British Public" brand, but also the British Pharmacopoeia article.

The question of the chalybeate springs of our city is exercising local antiquarians. There used to be one each in Spring Vale and Spring Street discharging 20,000 gals. per hour; one in Gooch Street was also known, but all have disappeared. The town supply is ferruginous, as any pharmacist can easily determine, which arises from the fact that the soil contains over 20 per cent. of ferric oxide.

At St. Margaret's, Westminster, under most favourable auspices, our Local President (Mr. John Barclay) entered the bonds of matrimony, the lady of his choice hailing from the Antipodes. All members of the Association of which he is the head join in wishing him much happiness. He does not intend to hold office another year, and it is rumoured that the present Secretary has been asked to accept the presidency.

Mr. H. A. Turley, before the Royal Commission on Shop closing, said that at West Bromwich the student of the

technical school ceases to attend when he enters a shop because the hours of duty were so long. This applies specially to pharmacy students who only get Wednesday afternoons, and it is unreasonable to expect a young man then to go to classes in technical subjects, for it is his only time for recreation during sunlight. As a result it is found that attendance at such classes falls off considerably after the first year.

The Week's Poisonings.

Fourteen fatalities from poisoning are recorded since our last issue. Three of these were caused by hydrochloric acid, the only unscheduled poison employed. In the scheduled list carbolic acid is credited with four deaths, and strychnine also caused four, chlorodyne and laudanum being responsible for one each. The popularity of strychnine is noteworthy; it is invariably obtained in the handy form of vermin-killer. At the adjourned inquest on the body of a St. Helens labourer's child which was poisoned with vermin-killer by its mother, Mr. Charles W. Swift, chemist and druggist, Baldwin Street, St. Helens, deposed to selling a threepenny packet of vermin-killer to the mother, who said it was to be used for poisoning rats. The Coroner (Mr. S. Brighthouse) remarked that under the pretence of poisoning rats people could get enough strychnine to kill two persons, and the Act did not seem to him a real protection under such circumstances.—One of the prisoners at North London Police Court on April 2 was a woman named Dye, who was charged with attempting suicide by taking a mixture of sulphate of zinc and gunpowder.—A Balsall Heath woman attempted suicide on April 1 by drinking a quantity of ammonia and turpentine.—At Swindon on March 27, a woman named Hopkins consulted Dr. A. C. Swinhoe, who prescribed for her medicine containing 10 drops of hydrocyanic acid. The bottle was labelled to be taken in doses of two tablespoonfuls every four hours; but the woman drank half the bottleful at one dose, and died a few hours later. Dr. Swinhoe told the Coroner that the quantity of hydrocyanic acid in the bottle would not kill a person in ordinary health, but it had undoubtedly caused the death of deceased, who was in a weakly condition.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Drug-contracts.

Messrs. Clarke & Co., Belfast, have obtained the contract for medicines and surgical appliances from the Wexford Board of Guardians.

The following tenders have been accepted by the Drogheda Board of Guardians:—Drugs and chemicals, J. Clark & Co., Dublin; surgical appliances, Medical Supply Association, Cork.

Messrs. Jno. Clark & Co., Belfast, have been declared contractors for medicines to the Londonderry Guardians' hospitals, and Mr. Samuel Bell, Belfast, for medical and surgical appliances.

The Guardians of the Kells Union have appointed Messrs. Leslie & Co., Dublin, and Messrs. Smith & Sheppard, Dublin, contractors for a year's supply of drugs and surgical appliances respectively.

The Medical Requisites Company, Dublin, have complained to the L.G.B. that their tender, although the lowest received by the Killarney Guardians, was not accepted. The Clerk to the Guardians says a mistake has been made.

The Cork Medical and Drug Company have been declared medicine-contractors to the Cahireween, county Kerry, workhouse and dispensaries; and Messrs. Smith & Sheppard, chemists and druggists, Dublin, for medical and surgical appliances.

The Local Government Board has called for an explanation from the Guardians of the Mullingar Union of the fact, that while the payments for drugs during the last half-year amount to 186*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* vouchers of a total of only

87*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.* have been submitted. Other discrepancies are also mentioned.

The Donnybrook Dispenser.

In reference to the refusal of the L.G.B. to sanction a salary of 120*l.* a year for the dispenser, one of the Guardians at the last meeting said that once the L.G.B. took a step, whether right or wrong, it would persist in it, and if wrong they were more likely to do so. They would not be moved by any force of reason. He believed in fighting to a certain point, but he thought that no amount of pressure or reason would induce the L.G.B. to alter their determination.

Declining Profits.

The annual general meeting of Messrs. H. Williams & Co. (Limited), druggists, Dublin, was held on March 28, when dividends on the ordinary and preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. respectively were declared. It was stated that the profits had been steadily declining during the past three years, and that some of the goods were sold at 20 per cent. under cost-price, the difference being put on other articles. Last year the Baggot Street branch made a profit of over 1,000*l.*, this year the profit was only 21*l.*

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Business Changes.

Mr. John Prentice, chemist and druggist, 126 Nicholson Street, Edinburgh, will shortly remove to No. 132 in the same street.

Mr. Wm. C. Baker, chemist and druggist, 13 Dundas Street, Edinburgh, intimates that he is removing to 5 North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh.

Mr. George H. Jamieson, chemist and druggist, will shortly commence business in Roslin, a favourite resort of Edinburgh holiday-makers.

Mr. John Muir, chemist and druggist, has acquired the business, carried on for several years by Mr. Robert Cook, at 162 Easter Road, Edinburgh.

For the Front.

Mr. William L. Love, an assistant with Mr. Charles Stewart, chemist and druggist, 231 High Street, Kirkcaldy, has been accepted as compounder in the Royal Army Medical Corps, and has been sent to Aldershot preparatory to sailing for South Africa. For three years he has been attached to the 6th Volunteer Battalion of the Black Watch, and for one year has been lance-corporal. The Corporation of Kirkcaldy has followed their rule regarding all volunteers from the town, and insured Mr. Love's life for 100*l.*

THE British Consul at Havre reports that consumers of indigo are abandoning the use of the artificial product, which is at too high a price compared with that of the natural indigo.

INDIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE.—The official returns of the trade of India with foreign countries for the six months (April to September, 1900) show a considerable increase, the imports and exports for that period being 5,71,83,304*l.*, against 5,26,56,612*l.* for the corresponding period of 1899.

GET YOUR APPRENTICE, that is or is to be, to read the "Guide to Preliminary Examinations," published by the C. & D. It deals with Latin, Arithmetic, English, Algebra, Euclid, French, and German, also with the London Matric. Examinations of the College of Preceptors, the Educational Institute of Scotland, and the Oxford and Cambridge Locals—recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The book tells how to prepare for the examinations, the best books to get, when the examinations are held, and how to enter for them. Specimens of the examination-papers are given and worked out. The book is invaluable to all who are entering the drug-trade. Price 2*s.* 6*d.*; by post, 2*s.* 9*d.*

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

DEATH OF M. JULLIARD.—A prominent personality in French pharmacy disappears by the death of M. Jean Joseph Louis Alexis Julliard, which occurred a few days ago. He was 79 years of age, and was, I believe, the senior pharmacien in active business here. His pharmacy is at 72 rue Montmartre, Paris.

A HISTORY OF PHARMACY AT LILLE from 1203 to 1301 has just appeared in the form of a thesis by M. Ed. Leclair, and presented to the Paris School of Pharmacy for the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy. Fine illustrations are given to the work (a volume of 400 pages), amongst which may be mentioned the *facsimile* of the frontispiece of Mathias de Lobel's "Plantarum seu Stirpium Historia," published in Antwerp in 1576; an advertisement-prospectus of Drapiez, a druggist living at Lille in the end of the eighteenth century; the coat-of-arms of the town apothecaries; and the gonfalon of the corporation of apothecaries of the eighteenth century.

TREATMENT OF NERVOUS DISEASES BY MAGNETISM.—At Angers, in 1897, a magnetiser who had treated nervous maladies by a magnetic method was prosecuted for illegal practice of medicine, but the case at the time was dismissed. In 1899, in an identical case, the Court of Paris condemned the defendant for illegal practice of medicine. The Court of Cassation has just annulled the Angers decree, and has decided that the fact of treating patients by means of magnetic passes constitutes a treatment of such a nature as to justify proceedings for illegal exercise of medicine against anyone who practises it without being duly qualified. This result will give great satisfaction in medical and pharmaceutical circles.

"PHARMACIE HIPPOCRATES."—A French pharmacist who has been travelling in the East has discovered that there are two pharmacists in regular practice at Suez. Entering a quaint little pharmacy in the heart of the dirty bazaar, above the door of which was the high-sounding announcement "Pharmacie Hippocrates," the French visitor was received with every courtesy by the pharmacist and his assistant. In the course of the conversation it was remarked that from a business point of view pharmacy was not brilliant at Suez, and that prices were regulated entirely by mental calculation as to the depth and accessibility of the client's pocket. The doctors of Suez, of whom there are about fifteen, are considerably to blame for the slackness of trade; they find it so much easier to prescribe a patent medicine than to write a recipe that a prescription in Suez seems to be in danger of becoming as extinct as the dodo.

THE PHARMACIEN'S PATIENTS.—A rather interesting case came before the Paris Courts a few days ago. Mlle. Clémentine Debelle, a young *couturière*, was bicycling along the Rue de la Condamine, after finishing her day's work, on July 2 last, when she was overthrown by a cab. The lantern of the cab completely tore away the right eye of the poor girl. She was at once carried into the nearest pharmacy, and after receiving all possible attention and care, was taken home. She brought an action against the company owning the cab, and the Tribunal allowed her 1,200f. as maintenance, then, after an examination by Dr. Galezowski, a further sum of 20,000f. The company, considering the eye of a Paris work-girl not worth such a sum, appealed, but the Court of Appeal confirmed the previous judgment, thus certifying that, in its opinion, the eye of a *couturière* is worth 21,200fr. even at a time when dressmakers are on strike!

PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION OF WINE.—Experiments recently made by M. Roos prove that wine, taken in moderation, has salutary effects. He has reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences his experiments on six pairs of guinea-pigs, four pairs of which were given wine daily, whilst the others were provided with the usual food only. In regard to endurance, weight, strength, number of offspring, and longevity the tests were altogether in favour of the wine-fed animals. As these results conflict current ideas, protests are coming from all parts. M. Dumas (of Ledignan) also comes forward with a defence of wine, which he says ought not to be made responsible for the misdeeds of alcohol. Its chemical com-

position constitutes it, he says, a hygienic alimentary substance, and a tonic of the highest order. It preserves the nutritive qualities of the blood, and restores them when lost. Being indispensable to life it ought to be no more taxed than bread. He asserts that taxes on hygienic drinks, and on wine especially, belong to another age. Whenever wine becomes cheap it will drive out alcohol.

THE LAW ON LEGACIES.—An interesting decision, in which the well-known law that a doctor or pharmacien who has professionally attended an invalid cannot benefit under his will was cited, has just been given in the First Chamber of the Paris Civil Tribunal. A Paris notary drew up a will for a client who died, and the lawyer inherited under the will. The heirs contested the will, but the defence of the notary was that, although the instruments drawn up by him were for a moribund, the law applying to doctors or pharmacien did not affect him, as those two professions alone were specified. The case has been followed with much interest, as it is a test-case upon a very pertinent point in the law of inheritance; and the decision of the Court that there is no analogy between the two categories, and that the legacy left to the avocat is perfectly valid, has been much discussed. It seems rather an anomaly that a pharmacien who has merely dispensed medicines for a friend during the latter's last illness cannot inherit from that friend, though he may have had no knowledge whatever or expectation of profiting under the will, while a lawyer, who actually prepares the documents and writes his own name as inheriting a given sum, can do so without let or hindrance.

THE LATEST CURE FOR TUBERCULOSIS.—Dr. Fascelle (of Paris) recommends the juice of raw meat, or muscular plasma, as a specific against tuberculosis. It does not strike one at first sight as anything wonderful, but Dr. Fascelle says muscular plasma can only be obtained by a process in which the meat gives only one-fifth of the juice it contains, and all attempts to prepare the plasma aseptically have hitherto proved defective. A M. Chapelle has, however, suggested that the juice of meat can be obtained in an aseptic condition by evaporating the beef-juice at less than 40° C., scaling the concentrate, and preserving in bottles; in other words, with a powerful hydraulic press he obtains from meat 45 per cent. of juice, immediately filters it, then spreads it out in a thin layer to dry in the air to the form of brown scales. M. Chapelle has prepared a sufficient quantity of dried plasma for clinical experiments, the result showing that, even from a physiological point of view, the product has not perceptibly undergone any change. [It is difficult to realise that French physicians should be apparently oblivious to the immense quantities of raw-beef juice that are prescribed by American and English physicians for practically the same purpose—the nutrition of the debilitated.—ED.]

FALSE TITLES.—It has long been a sore point with the pharmacists of France that there are some of their professional brethren who do not hesitate to trade under ambiguous and questionable, if not actually false, titles. For instance, it is not infrequent to see a pharmacy with the following sign: "Morin, Pharmacist of the First Class, Gauthier Successor," or "Pharmacy of the First Class, Moreau, Pharmacist." There are others again, in business in an English quarter who call themselves "First-class English Chemists." The opinion of a well-known French lawyer, M. G. Bogelot, has just been given on the point. He says that as there does not exist in law a pharmacy of the first class, but only pharmacists so designated, there is nothing illegal in a pharmacist taking a qualification which has no legal existence. To call oneself a pharmacist of the first class when one is not is a graver matter, but there is no law under which it can be punished. The pharmacist so trading, however, could be proceeded against on the question of damages for unfair practices. In this way one or two prosecutions have taken place. A pharmacist who bore the same name as a relative who held the "first-class" diploma was prohibited, under a fine of 20f. a day, from himself trading as a first-class pharmacist, and also mulcted in damages; whilst not long since damages were obtained against a pharmacist of the second class who traded under the title "First-class English Chemist," the contention upheld being that he intended to convey to English people that he was a French pharmacien of the first class.

South African News.

(From our Colonial Correspondents.)

TENDER INVITED.—In the matter of the dissolution of partnership of the firm of F. B. L. Johnston, chemist, of Mowbray and Observatory, a Cape Town contemporary announces that tenders are invited for the stock-in-trade, furniture, and fittings belonging to the firm.

NEW LICENCES.—Licences have been issued authorising the undermentioned persons to practise in Cape Colony in the capacity of chemists and druggists:—George Augustus Dean, pharmaceutical chemist, Ireland, 1897; Arthur Dand, chemist and druggist, Great Britain, 1894; and Thomas Wardley, chemist and druggist, Great Britain, 1894.

KRUGERSDORP PRICES.—Some fancy prices have lately been paid in Krugersdorp, despite its contiguity to Johannesburg and its situation on the railway. Sugar has been 3s. 3d. a lb., eggs 1s. each, 8-oz. mixtures 4s. 6d., 12-oz. mixtures 7s. 6d., 18 pills 1s. 6d., 4d. cakes of soap 2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d., and no cigars under 1s. 6d. Saccharin has been sold at 10l. a lb., and a pound a day could be sold. Other little luxuries in the way of drinks are only obtainable at famine prices.

NATAL DRUG-TRADE.—For the twelve months ending December 31, 1900, the value of drugs and chemicals imported into Natal is officially given as 115,766l., as against 119,456l. for the year 1899, or a decrease of 3.1 per cent. The other imports for 1900 include: perfumery, 9,526l.; saltpetre, 96l.; spirit of wine, 94l. The receipts into bond of apothecary-ware, drugs and chemical products during the twelve months amounted to 33,376l.; those of cyanide of potassium to 9,600l.; perfumery, 2,546l.; sheep-dip, 2,979l., and spirit of wine, 54l. Apothecary-ware to the value of 1,342l. was exported from Natal to the Transvaal during the year.

THE PLAGUE AT CAPE TOWN.—In the opinion of some of the medical men the plague is destined to go right through the town; if so, the mortality will undoubtedly be enormous. Chemists are doing excellent business in disinfectants, and there is a great demand for Jeyes's fluid, chloride of lime, "Sanitas," carbolic acid, Lawes's disinfectants, odamine, izal, terebene, World's disinfectants, "Red Cross" fluid-camphor, eucalyptus oil, and naphthalene. A private in the R.A.M.C. recently contracted the disease, but fortunately recovered. The Cape Town District Gas-lighting Company lately offered the municipality 1,000 gals. of coal-tar free of charge for disinfecting-purposes. At Mowbray the municipal authorities are offering a reward of 3d. per head for rats, which, on being brought in, are dipped, cages and all, in pure Jeyes' fluid, thus killing them and disinfecting at the same time. The dead rodents are then put in bags saturated with disinfecting-fluid and burnt in a proper destructor.

R.A.M.C. PANNIER-BOXES.—The following comments on field medical boxes by Dr. Jane Waterston, of Cape Town, are worth notice: "The boxes go in pairs, and are supposed to be carried by horses, but are much too cumbersome and heavy for a horse to carry, and are of uneven weights. If one box gets lost the contents of the other is practically useless. The chloroform and surgical instruments are in one box, but the lint to administer the chloroform and the bandages for wounds after operation are in the other box. Poisons and medicines are placed one beside the other, and in dim light, or should the red poison-labels be effaced, the bottles could only too easily be mistaken for each other with fatal consequences. No strychnine or digitalis is provided to administer in case of shock or heart-failure after an operation. The thermometers are of the oldest patterns, of thick glass and cheap make. Very few improvements seem to have been made in the Field Medical service since the days of the Crimean war as far as the medicines are concerned. They are put up in insufficient quantities, and room wasted which might have been utilised for needful requirements. The surgical instruments are superior, and up to date."

PERSONAL.—Mr. H. H. Knight, chemist and druggist, of Krugersdorp, Transvaal, writing to Mr. R. C. Cowley, prin-

cipal of the Liverpool School of Pharmacy, of which he was formerly a pupil, describes some of his experiences, often perilous, during the late military operations in his district. Out of several hundred Englishmen in the town the Boers only allowed eleven to stay, and they had a rough time of it. Three or four days after the war broke out a bullet shot into the shop, narrowly missed Mr. Knight, and smashed a large glass case, breaking both the spt. amm. aromat. and the syr. codein. bottles. Mr. Knight has been a prisoner, and had two narrow shaves at the battle of Doornkop, where he was with a German doctor. Just now he says "it is great fun, as we have no boots, and cannot decide whether to make tan or black the fashionable colour for our feet." In spite of all this, Mr. Knight winds up his letter with a request for the Liverpool School's prospectus for the Major examination, as he hopes to put in a course or two when he returns.—Mr. Geo. T. Branch, Ph C., formerly senior demonstrator at the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, London, has been appointed s'off medical sergeant to the 3rd Railway Pioneer Regiment, and is now on active duty at Boksburg, Transvaal, as a centre, but Elandsfontein Springs and other places about thirty miles from Johannesburg are in the district of his survey.

THE R.A.M.C. IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(From a Civil Compounder.)

A FAVOURITE PILL with the Army doctors at present, known as "No. 13," contains the following ingredients in each pill:—

Resin. podoph.	...	...	...	1/4 gr.
Ext. hyosey.	...	...	...	1/4 gr.
Ext. tarax.	...	...	...	1/4 gr.
Ext. coloc. co.	...	...	...	1 gr.
Ext. jalapæ	...	...	...	1/2 gr.
Leptandrin.	...	...	...	1/2 gr.
Ol. menth. pip.	...	...	...	q.s.

The doctors, we understand, are strong on this particular formula, and stock-boxes are kept in the wards.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT.—Patients on arrival at one of the base hospitals are put on milk diet which is afterwards increased to light diet, which may include oatmeal in the morning, mince for dinner, rice, tea and cornflour, and any stimulant or extra which the doctor may order. Many cases are marked at first "Malaria," and afterwards altered to "Enteric" and placed in a special ward. The bed-linen is boiled with "Izal" before it is sent to the wash, and the excreta is also treated with this disinfectant. Milk for the hospitals is sterilised before leaving the dépôt, and kept in large cooling-tanks.

COMPOUNDERS' EXAMINATION.—A small class for compounder candidates has been started at Pretoria under a Civil compounder, and is attended by non-commissioned officers. These, however, it will be remembered, must undergo six months' practice in a home hospital dispensary before taking over independent compounding. An examination board sat a few weeks back and the four candidates examined all passed. Our correspondent says that a knowledge of the B.P. and a knowledge of the preparation of emulsions, &c., is all that is required. There are a number of Army compounders in Pretoria, but most of them are occupied as ward-masters, and not as dispensers.

East Indian News.

THE Calcutta *Englishman*, in its issue of February 19, says, with reference to the applications made to the Indian Government for financial assistance to improve the position of the indigo industry: "We understand that the matter has received favourable consideration, and an important announcement on the subject may be expected in the course of next month."

PLAGUE SERUM FACTORY.—Under the direction of Mr. Haffkine, of the Plague Research Laboratory, Bombay, a prophylactic-factory has been for some time past in active operation. Upwards of 2,000 brews of Haffkine's remedy were made in six months, and more than six million doses

were issued for inoculations. In Bombay alone 250,000 persons have been inoculated, and the results have been remarkable as to immunity amongst inoculated persons.

SUCCESSFUL SERUM OPERATIONS.—A report has been issued by Dr. Lingard, Imperial Bacteriologist for India, showing the result of serum inoculation for rinderpest. Eminent successful results have been obtained at Bareilly and elsewhere, rinderpest being checked at once, and heavy loss among the cattle averted. Out of 1,730 animals inoculated by what is known as the serum simultaneous method only three died. Inoculation by serum alone, without virulent rinderpest blood, rendered the animals immune. The serum is now manufactured and kept in stock at Nukhtesar Laboratory, whence it can be dispatched all over India.

INDIAN HEMP DRUGS BILL.—A meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council was held on March 12, when the Bill to amend the Bombay Abkari Act (known as the Hemp Drugs Bill) was read a third time and passed. The more important points of the Bill were given in the *C. & D.* of February 9, page 264. The *Times of India*, in commenting on the measure, regard it as superfluous and without merit, as it was made clear, at the time it was first printed, that they owed it rather to the directions of the Government of India, in their desire for a uniform treatment of the hemp-drug problem in the various Presidencies and provinces, than to any belief on the part of local administrators in the need for such a measure. The *Indu Prakash* says the measure will affect a class of people which had better be left untouched. It is likely to cause discontent among Mussulman *fakirs* and Hindoo ascetics, who habitually use hemp preparations. The hemp drugs being made dearer, these people would either be driven to more deleterious drugs like *dhatura*, or would stint themselves of food to get these very drugs to which they have been all their life addicted. The difficulties of administering such a law, the vexation it might cause to the cultivating classes, the opportunities it would afford to the subordinates of the department for illegitimate income—all these have to be reckoned with. Moreover, hemp is fast growing in importance as an article of export to Europe, and restrictions on its cultivation would thus affect commercial interests also.

Colonial and Foreign News.

ARGENTINE BORAX.—The borax industry in the province of Salta, Argentine Republic, is beginning to assume a position of importance. At the beginning of the present year about 100 carts were employed in conveying 400 tons borate of lime per month from Tres Moros mines to the nearest railway station. Some 500 labourers were employed, and they mined, on an average 700 tons per month. The shipments from the entire province to Europe in 1901 are expected to be more than 16,000 tons.

PROPRIETARIES IN SWITZERLAND.—The Governments of the cantons of Aargau, St. Gall, Schaffhausen, Thurgau and Zurich, have come to an understanding as to the analysing and attesting of patent medicines and specialties. The seat of the control is to be Zurich and a doctor, a pharmacist and a chemist are to have charge. The control has to examine all patents and specialties sent by the respective sanitary boards as to influence on health, composition, swindling character of advertisement or label, and the proportion between value and sale-price. A list of such medicines as will be prohibited is to be published.

OLIVE & COTTONSEED OIL.—The owners of olive groves in Austria-Hungary have combined with the refiners of edible oils to demand a material increase in the duty on all oils which are used as substitutes for olive oil. The sole aim of the movement is to prohibit entirely the importation of American cottonseed oil, which has assumed immense proportions of late years. The matter will not be considered by the Government, however, until the expiration of the tariff treaties between the United States and Austria-Hungary which takes place in 1902, when it is expected that the new laws will be framed with a special view to prohibit the importation of American products generally.

THE CONDITION OF PHARMACY IN AUSTRIA has for some time past been an almost exact replica of that country's parliamentary and political situation. Pharmacists' assistants who have for long been petitioning for a reform of the whole system, have openly declared war against all the possessors of *apotheken* (pharmacies). These assistants have formed a union which has a special journal. Recently a sensational trial was brought on by a writer in a daily paper in Graz exposing several dark passages in Austrian pharmacy, but upon the body of pharmacists accusing him of libel, he was able to prove that a great deal of his article was true, and he was almost completely acquitted. The "Reformers" especially wish for better rooms, regulation of the working hours, an increase in the number of pharmacies as required by law (one for 10,000 souls, whereas sometimes as many as 25,000 inhabitants possess only one pharmacy), and that a stop be put to the illegal sale of personal concessions which has of late years become general. A petition embodying these reforms has been presented to Parliament. The assistants are trying by all means in their power to prevent young men entering pharmacy.

Trade Notes.

"ICILMA" PREPARATIONS.—We observe that these articles, for which Messrs. Barclay & Sons (Limited) are agents, have been reduced in price. For example icilma water, hitherto 9s. per doz., is now 8s. 7d.

BARCLAY'S LIST came to us on Friday of last week. The first twelve pages of it are index, then follow 360 pages on lemon-coloured paper devoted entirely to druggists' sundries. This part is copiously illustrated. A list of scheduled proprietaries prefaces Part II, which is devoted to proprietary medicines, &c., and extends to 140 pages. Each P.A.T.A. article in it is marked "P." The list is "net cash," and is provided with a loop for hanging it at the desk. Buyers who wish a copy of it should write to Messrs. Barclay & Sons (Limited), 95 Farringdon Street, E.C.

THE "CHARLEROI OVAL."—This is the name which is given to a dispensing-bottle manufactured by the W. H. Hamilton Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., U.S.A. It will be observed from the illustration that the peculiarity of the bottle is the absence of corners at the top, bottom, and sides, especially that the formation of the neck enables the last drop to be obtained out of the bottle. The form is one which appeals to dispensers, and it is now popular in America. Pittsburgh is the headquarters of the glass-industry in the United States, and the company who manufacture the "Charleroi Oval" invite correspondence with druggists in the British Empire.

SYRUP OF GLYCEROPHOSPHATES.—Messrs. Wyleys (Limited), of Coventry, have introduced an elegant syrup of glycerophosphates, which is a decided improvement upon the combination originally suggested by Dr. Robin. Each teaspoonful contains 3 gr. of the combined glycerophosphates of soda, potash, lime, iron, and magnesia, and the preparation has the cherry flavour and colour which are as characteristic of syrup of glycerophosphates as raspberry-flavour is of Parrish's syrup. Messrs. Wyleys put the syrup up in 4-oz. bottles, enclosed in handsome crimson carton with gold inscription, and each carton contains a small pamphlet in which the properties of the glycerophosphates are stated. The preparation is becoming quite popular, perhaps owing to recent correspondence about the effects of glycerophosphates in prolonging life.

BRANDY is recommended in popular papers for the removal of styes. The pharmacist would no doubt substitute eau de Cologne tinted with compound tincture of lavender, with some advantage and *kudos*.



Festivities.

CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The twenty-third annual dinner of this Association was held at the Holborn Restaurant on March 28. The President (Mr. J. A. Dewhurst, F.C.S.), occupied the chair and amongst the guests were Mr. C. B. Allen, Dr. Attfield, Messrs. J. C. Umney, T. H. W. Idris, J. Slinger Ward, Watson Will, and G. S. V. Wills. There was a large company. After the loyal toast had been given with musical honours,

Mr. F. W. Gamble proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society." He said it might be a surprise to some that the Pharmaceutical Society has survived the buffeting of another year; but he thought in this it showed a vitality more marked than ever. Since the foundation of the Society sixty years ago a great advancement in pharmaceutical work has been made, and the major part of that advance is due to the Society. As to the Pharmacy Bill, he understood it is quite as difficult to pass a Bill through Parliament as to draw one, and as the House has had a surfeit of beer and water lately it might not take kindly to poison. (Laughter.) He thought another point on which the Society might interest itself besides the Pharmacy Bill is the status of civil compounders in the Army.

Mr. C. B. Allen (Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society) returned thanks for the sympathetic way in which Mr. Gamble proposed the toast. The Society is this year celebrating its Diamond Jubilee, and were it possible for the founders to be alive at the present time he thought it a question if they would not consider the Society has fulfilled all the duties they desired of it. He did know one founder who takes the greatest interest in pharmaceutical doings of to-day, who paid his subscription in 1841 and also in 1901. He referred to Mr. Elias Bremridge—(applause)—the former Secretary of the Society. The objects of the foundation of the Society were the education of its members, the relief of distressed chemists, and the fostering of the business of chemists and druggists generally. Referring to the Pharmacy Bill, Mr. Allen said it has lately appeared in a very different guise from the first draft. The reason for this was that it had lately been in the hands of the lawyers, who arranged it in proper legal phraseology. The Society has been informed by the very eminent lawyers who counsel them, both North and South of the Tweed, that the Bill contains everything the Council proposed a few months ago, and that no person could make any mistake about the clauses now. (Laughter.) He had no doubt they would be glad of that. (Renewed laughter.) Mr. Allen then referred in detail to the provisions of the Bill, finally saying that the Bill as proposed at present is a thoroughly practical measure. Local organisation has been taken up very keenly by the Society lately, and by the time the Bill comes before the House of Commons it is hoped that the organisation will be of great value in bringing influence to bear in the various divisions for the pushing on of the Bill. The Pharmaceutical Council is waking up—(hear, hear)—and doing all it can to help forward the business of pharmacy. (Laughter.) In the future the Pharmaceutical Society will be quite as brilliant as it has been in the past. (Loud laughter.) There is life and vitality in pharmacy yet, but in looking forward to the future they must rely upon the younger men, such as the President of that evening, to help them in pharmaceutical affairs. (Applause.)

Mr. Cracknell proposed the toast of "The Chemists Assistants' Association." He referred to his own connection with chemists' assistants twenty years ago, and thought that all assistants in the West of London should belong to the Association. Its papers were good, the matters discussed at its meetings were of great interest, and it had been particularly fortunate in its choice of presidents who invariably proved themselves men capable of filling any position in the pharmaceutical world. (Applause.)

The President (Mr. Dewhurst), in reply, referred to the founding of the Association in 1877. It has therefore arrived at the age of discretion, or, rather, as some people put it, at the age of indiscretion. Unfortunately, its great defect is lack of members and support by chemists' assistants themselves. It seems to share that distinction with the Pharmaceutical Society. He was of opinion that the poor

attendance is due to too long hours. After a long day's work a man's thoughts do not fly to scientific papers, but rather to some relaxation. He would advocate shorter hours, which would be of benefit to master and assistants alike. So far the session has gone very well, and it is possibly the first time in which more papers have been provided than were required. The association has always done good work, and always will do good work. Finally, he thanked the patrons and the wholesale firms, without whose support they would find it a hard struggle for existence. (Applause.)

Mr. J. W. Peck proposed the toast of "The Visitors"; and Mr. T. H. W. Idris, J.P., said the Association was realising some of his dreams of thirty or forty years ago. Nowadays the title of master is almost obsolete. The possibilities of the Association are very great. Its interests and those of the masters in pharmacy are identical. Assistants have far more power to put employers right now than they had in his time, and they can settle the company-pharmacy question right away if they only unite. Assistants are masters of the situation if they care to combine. He hoped they would realise their possibilities. (Loud applause.)

During the evening an enjoyable musical and sketch entertainment was provided by Messrs. Morley Taylor, Latreille, Morley, C. T. Lewis, and Blin, and Mr. W. N. Ellis acted as accompanist.

GRIMSBY AND DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting and dinner of this Association took place at the Oberon Hotel, Grimsby, on March 28—Mr. R. Cook, J.P. (the retiring President), in the chair. Mr. T. D. Sneath (Secretary) in his annual report stated that the Association had now a membership of nineteen. They had a balance in hand of 9*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* During the year the committee had met monthly, and the members quarterly. A special feature of the past year was the introduction of lectures during the winter months. The report having been adopted, the meeting re-elected the officers as follows:—President, Mr. R. Cook, J.P.; Vice-President, Mr. Cor. Willson; Treasurer, Mr. J. A. Hawdon; Secretaries, Messrs. T. D. Sneath and C. Dewing; Council, Messrs. H. Colley, H. W. Colley, S. J. North, T. C. Palmer, and J. Wharton; Auditors, Messrs. J. A. Moore and R. M. Hearne.

At the dinner Mr. R. Cook also presided, the vice chair being occupied by Mr. Cor. Willson. Soon after the company had got seated, the Chairman asked them to drink the health of Mr. T. C. Palmer, who had just entered the matrimonial state. The request was enthusiastically complied with. After the loyal toasts had been honoured, Mr. S. J. North proposed "The Grimsby and District Chemists' and Druggists' Association," and in doing so remarked that the Association was now time-honoured. He thought they might congratulate themselves on the progress of the Association, and especially on the work of the past year. He referred to the lecture given in November by Mr. Turner at the Town Hall, and also to the lecture given by the Vice-President. Successful as their Association might have been in the past, it would be more so in the future if it could smooth the little difficulties that seemed to exist between many of them to-day. There was a certain amount of asperity at the present time, and if that could be removed it would accomplish a great deal. Mr. Sneath, replying, referred to the unity that had been brought about by that and kindred associations, and said that unity was the object of such organisations. Mr. Dawing also briefly responded.

Mr. Hawdon proposed "The President, Vice-President, and Members of the Council." "Town and Trade" was given by Councillor White, and responded to by Mr. T. C. Palmer; Mr. H. W. Colley gave "The Pharmaceutical Society," to which the Chairman replied; and other toasts were "Visitors" and "Ladies." The evening's proceedings were enlivened by songs from Messrs. Wharton, T. C. Palmer, J. H. Moore, J. Keay, Readman, White, and North. Messrs. J. Whitshed and H. W. Kitchener contributed recitations.

GLASGOW CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' ASSISTANTS' AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

The annual supper of this Association was held in the Royal Restaurant, West Nile Street, Glasgow, on March 27, Mr. R. McAdam (Glasgow Apothecaries' Company) in the chair, with Messrs. J. J. Sturgeon and G. Grierson as croupiers. Amongst those seated at the Chairman's table

were Messrs. J. R. Hill and J. G. Selater (Edinburgh), and W. L. Currie, T. Mabon, T. S. Barrie, W. Riddell, and Dr. J. Forrester (Glasgow). After a substantial repast, elegantly served, the Chairman briefly gave the toast of "The King," Mr. T. S. Barrie, Ph.C., proposing "The Pharmaceutical Society and its North British Branch." He thought there must be general agreement as to the great work done for the advancement of pharmacy by the founders of the Society and their successors. He was, however, dissatisfied with some recent developments of policy, in particular with reference to the examination system. Surely it was not wise to surrender control of the Entrance examination, and to accept colonial certificates in lieu of the Qualifying examination. As for the North British Branch, it doubtless made for progress and especially for the cultivation of a spirit of *camaraderie*. In the course of his reply Mr. J. R. Hill pointed out that the proposal for the acceptance of colonial certificates was really by way of reciprocity. All British colonies, except New South Wales, recognise the British qualification. Speaking of the new Pharmacy Bill he remarked that, like all previous measures, it represented a variety of views which it sought to combine and modify so as to make a consistent whole. There could be no question but that if it became law the registered chemist would enjoy more effective protection of his legal rights than hitherto.

Mr. W. L. Currie then presented the Kinninmont gold medal to Mr. J. P. Gilmour, remarking that it was peculiarly fitting that it should go to Mr. Gilmour, as a former assistant to the late Mr. Kinninmont.

The toast of "The Glasgow Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association" was handled by Mr. T. Mabon, who congratulated the Association on the success it had attained. Judged by the reports of its meetings it was intensely alive and alert. It had occurred to him that it would be of mutual advantage if the Assistants' Association and the Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association were to combine. He commended this suggestion to their consideration. Mr. M. Meldrum, Ph.C., briefly replied.

Mr. J. J. Sturgeon, in a humorous speech, submitted the toast of "Kindred Associations," coupled with the names of Mr. W. L. Currie and Mr. J. G. Selater. In his reply Mr. Currie said that although the Glasgow Pharmaceutical Association might not be very active at present, its potential energy was as great as ever in any struggle for pharmaceutical betterment. One sinister cause of the intermittent activity of chemists' organisations was the intolerably late hours. He felt disappointed that Lord Avebury's Commission on Early Closing had not called for evidence as to chemists' business-hours. It was both unreasonable and unnecessary that any drug-shop should be kept open after 8 P.M. Mr. Selater having also replied, "The Guests" were toasted by Mr. J. Thomson and acknowledged by Mr. Barrie, and "The Croupiers," by Mr. Hustler, in a clever impromptu speech, was replied for by Mr. Sturgeon. The musical programme had to be ruthlessly curtailed owing to the refusal of the Magistrates to extend the licence beyond midnight. Strong representations were made by the committee as to the special claim of chemists to indulgence, but the answer was that the Lord Provost was inexorable.

LONDON MINERAL-WATER BOTTLE EXCHANGE.

The weather alone was responsible for a slight falling-off in the attendance at the fifteenth annual banquet of the London Mineral-water Bottle Exchange, which took place at the Hotel Cecil on March 28. The *menu* and the music were quite up to the average, and the speeches of the same exhilarating character—though, by the way, it was noted that there was a little fear that the next Budget of the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be detrimental to the trade. Mr. W. Adpar Jones (Idris & Co., Limited) was in the chair, and there were representatives from most of the great centres of industry in the provinces, and also of the leading firms under the head of allied trades—Barnett & Foster's, Meadowcrofts, Bush's, Manchester Chemical Company, Riley's, Stevenson & Howell's, the Carbonic Acid Company, the Saccharin Corporation, Hayward-Tyler's, Barnard & Son's, Hassall's, Barnett & Elers, Foxon, Robinson & Co., Anglo-Continental Chemical Company, C. H. Glover & Co., Bourne Brothers, Price & Sons (Bristol), Bratby & Howard, Bratby & Hinchliffe, Clayton & Jowett, British

Syphon Company, Sydney Munckton, and others. Mr. Jas. Johnson eloquently proposed "The Combined Forces." Major Spencer Tyler martially responded, and thought a mixture of whisky and Idris was better to fight upon than minerals alone. Mr. Richard Johnson, J.P. (Wigan), the President of the National Association of Mineral-water Manufacturers, proposed the toast of the evening, and acknowledged the good fellowship and the princely hospitality of the London Society. He saw that some of the newspapers had suggested that a tax should be placed upon mineral waters, and if such a contingency was contemplated he would like to remind the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the mineral-water trade of London alone employed 25,000 persons, that 4,000,000 l. was annually spent in mineral waters in London, and that to produce such mineral waters it required 200,000 tons of sugar per annum. Therefore, if mineral waters were to be taxed, and if sugar was to be taxed, it would be a considerable injustice to those consumers. The mineral-water trade was reckoned as one-eighth of the trade of the country, and, as a trade, consumed 1,600,000 tons of sugar per annum. Men of all shades of politics, statesmen, and ministers of religion were trying to find out how to reduce drunkenness, and in the face of that there was a threatened tax upon the people who drank mineral water. Mr. Walter Davenport replied to this in one of his statistical speeches. The Society had lost a few members during the year by death, secession, &c., but they had added forty-two, and more were coming from Ipswich, St. Ives, Bedford, Reigate, and other places. Whilst bottle-exchanges were increasing so also was the system of bottle-charging being more and more taken up, and nothing could better prove the efficacy of the system than by the fact that before London adopted it 300,000 dozen bottles came into the exchange per year, whilst at the present the average had fallen to less than 80,000 dozen; and statistics also proved that whereas at one time there was a loss of 16 l. or 17 l. for every 100 l. worth of business done, this had gradually decreased to 7 l. loss on the 100 l. With regard to the taxation scare, if mineral waters were taxed it would enable the producers to charge more for their goods—a thing which the public had been expecting for a long time, seeing the cost of production had increased; so it would not be an unmixed disaster. The President proposed "The National Union and Kindred Societies," and Mr. J. M. Dowden (Hants, Wilts, and Dorset Association) replied. Mr. Mark Beaufoy, in one of his happy speeches, proposed "The Guests and Visitors," for whom Mr. J. L. Heath (Barrow-in-Furness) and Mr. J. Meadowcroft (Blackburn) replied. The speechmaking was most agreeably interspersed with music, sentimental and humorous, under the direction of Mr. R. O. Jones.

New Books.

Any book named in this list can be supplied post-free to any part of the world on receipt of the published price by the Publisher of "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Bocquillon-Limousin, H. *Formulaire des Médicaments Nouveaux pour 1901*. 64 x 4. Pp. 332. 3s. (Paris: J. B. Baillière et fils, 19 rue Hautefeuille.) [This edition is revised up to 1901, and contains concise particulars of many new remedies not mentioned in previous editions, such as gyrgol, honthin, ibit, igazol, liantral, silberol, and spleniferine.]

Cordingley, W. G. *Dictionary of Stock Exchange Terms*. 8vo. Pp. 100. 2s. 6d. net. (London: Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, E.C.) [Useful to those who follow stocks and shares reports, and are not familiar with the peculiar terms employed.]

Gray, A. *Treatise on Physics*. Vol. 1: Dynamics and Properties of Matter. 8½ x 5½. Pp. 712. 15s. (Churchill.)

Hurst, G. H. *Dictionary of Chemicals and Raw Products used in the Manufacture of Paints, Colours, Varnishes, and Allied Preparations*. 8½ x 5½. Pp. 380. 7s. 6d. (Scott, Greenwood & Co.)

Knight, J. *Chemistry*. 7½ x 4½. Pp. 184. 2s. 6d. (Holder & Stoughton.)

Smith, J. W. *The Law of Joint-stock Companies Acts, 1862-1900*. 26th thousand. 7½ x 4½. Pp. 237. 2s. net. (Effingham Wilson.)

Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

Royal Institution.

LORD RAYLEIGH delivered the Friday evening discourse on March 29, taking as his subject

POLISH.

The title was not, he said, to be taken in a literal sense, the lecture not being, as some thought, an essay on manners, although in Newton's "Optics" the "polite surface of a pellucid medium" is referred to. The discourse had to do with the polished surface of glass. Polish makes itself obvious by smoothness to touch and the property of reflecting light. The method of grinding glass to true planes was then shown, in which two surfaces of glass were ground together by a figure-of-eight movement with emery-powder of varying fineness between. The action of the spherometer for testing the flatness of the surface of glass was afterwards shown, the instrument used being so delicate that a difference of $\frac{1}{100000}$ inch could be readily detected.

The difference in flatness between a piece of plate glass supported on a flat surface, and when only supported in the centre, can be easily demonstrated. Lord Rayleigh said he showed the process of grinding glass because it is a subject on which little information is available. A lot of mystery is made about glass-grinding, and profession made of secret processes. It reminded him of the story of a calculating boy who was said to have special methods of calculating, and when asked to give an example said that when he wanted to multiply by 100, he first multiplied by twenty-five, and then by four. After grinding, the next process is polishing. This is effected by rubbing with a yielding surface of pitch and resin, lubricated with rouge. The polisher must have a definite degree of softness: it should only just take the impression of the finger-nail. It might be asked, the lecturer said, why it is not possible in grinding to go on and on with finer emery till a polish is produced? The explanation is that after a certain stage of grinding the two surfaces get too close together, and pieces of glass are torn out. Polishing works away the mountainous parts of the hills and pits worn by the emery. He calculated that the glass removed in polishing is equal to six wave-lengths of light, a wave-length being about $\frac{1}{40000}$ inch. His own view is that polishing is entirely a molecular process. There is no reason why fine emery-powder should not be used in place of rouge. When a glass is completely polished no structure can be seen under the microscope. Lord Rayleigh then showed that the specular reflection by wave-sounds on a high-tension gas-flame by different surfaces scarcely varies; an experiment to the same effect being also shown, in which the light from a Welsbach mantle was reflected on to a thermopile and indicated on a scale on the wall. Hydrofluoric acid roughens glass, but by suitable dilution it can be employed to eat away uneven surfaces and leave a smooth surface. This method of local application, he said, is worth more attention than it receives from grinders. To show the extreme tenuity of the film of glass removed in polishing glass, lantern-slides of interference-bands of soda were shown. A fine example was that of two plates on which the acid had been allowed to act in bands. The two plates eaten to the extent of half a wave-length were then crossed, and a pretty patchwork effect in colour was produced on the screen. It is easy to calculate the action of hydrofluoric acid on glass in terms of wave-lengths of soda-light.

Society of Chemical Industry.

LONDON SECTION.

MR. OTTO HEHNER occupied the chair at the meeting of the Section held on April 1 at Burlington House, Piccadilly. W. An alteration in rule 2 of the by-laws regulating the retire-

ment of the Vice-Chairman from the Committee was sanctioned, and five new members of committee were elected, after which the CHAIRMAN called on Mr. A. E. Berry to read his paper on the effect on

THE MARSH TEST

of some commercial products containing selenium and tellurium. The author found that following out the test he obtained when testing sulphuric acid a colour deposit in the heated tube, which indicated arsenic, but was found to consist of selenium only. There was no indication of tellurium, but selenium was estimated to be present to the extent of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in some samples of acid. The hydride of selenium is effectually absorbed if the gas given off from the zinc and acid is passed over a plug of cottonwool moistened with acetate of lead solution. Tellurium, the author found by experiment, will be given off with the gas if introduced in the proper way. It was mentioned also that so far back as 1883 it had been pointed out that some so called arsenic mirrors obtained from commercial sulphuric acid were really due to selenium.

MR. DAVID HOWARD said toxicologists were not decided as to whether selenium was poisonous, but it was an unpleasant thing to mess about with. The paper was important, as showing that definite methods of applying Marsh's test are necessary.

MR. T. TYRER thought Mr. Berry rather exaggerated the presence of selenium in sulphuric acid, as it would be in the recollection of the meeting that Dr. Messel said selenium was removed from sulphuric acid by the means used for taking out the arsenic. In his own laboratory they had not found selenium present in the acid to anything like the extent the author had. From experiment he had found that if the lead-acetate solution was of proper strength it removes the whole of the selenium; but there was no selenium present in commercial acid to affect Marsh's test in the smallest degree.

MR. BERRY, in replying, mentioned that tellurium gave a black mirror.

DR. W. NEWTON then described a new system he had patented for the

MANUFACTURE OF BORAX AND NITRATES.

Instead of using free steam to promote solution Dr. Newton uses direct heat. His apparatus consists of a closed furnace with a forced draught, and a second chamber to ensure complete exhaustion. The combustion gases are forced through the liquid, being distributed by means of two arms. By this method he claims that the crude substance dissolved in a quarter of the time usually employed, and there is no waste of fuel, the whole of the heat being utilised.

DR. DIVERS asked whether the author did not find that sulphur in the fuel caused trouble.

DR. GUTTMAN commended Dr. Newton's invention as rational and feasible, but feared he would not get his solutions clear. A second crystallisation would, he thought, be necessary.

Replying, DR. NEWTON said he had not found the sulphurous acid arising from the fuel objectionable in practice, and the difficulty of not getting a clear solution, are got over by allowing the liquid to stand. In the case of borax the solution is always run through filters.

MR. JOHN HUGHES next read a paper on

BASIC SUPERPHOSPHATES.

a manure he has patented made by mixing lime with ordinary acid phosphates. An imposing array of manure-experts discussed the matter for a long time, with the result that it was agreed that soils poor in lime would be benefited by dressing with "basic superphosphates," but that there was no reason why the farmer should not himself mix lime with acid manure.

MR. WATSON SMITH's paper on the preparation of cineol from eucalyptus oil was not reached owing to the lateness of the hour.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

At the meeting held in the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday, April 2, Dr. Grossmann in the chair, the following were appointed the new members of the committee:—Dr.

Garland, and Messrs. Stenhouse, Barnes, Perry, and English. The other officers were re-elected. A discussion then took place on "The Need of a Standard Test for Arsenic." The CHAIRMAN started the discussion, specially referring to the lack of a fairly quick and accurate quantitative test, which Reisch's and Marsh's were never intended to be, and suggested that a committee of the section might be formed to fix a standard.

The following committee, with power to add to their number, was formed, viz.:—Dr. A. K. Miller, Dr. Langdon, and Messrs. Carter Bell, Tomson, Chas. Estcourt, and Bowes, the committee to report to the section.

Mr. T. A. REID, F.C.S., then read "Notes on Glucose and other Brewery Products," previously passing round to the members a bottle of sulphuric acid taken from Bostock's works at Liverpool at the outbreak of the scare. This contained a deposit of almost pure arsenious acid.

Mr. HERBERT LEVINSTEIN also read a paper on "Indigo."

Optical Society.

At the meeting held on March 23, Mr. W. A. DIXEY, the new President, delivered an address on the

EDUCATION OF THE OPTICIAN.

As a preliminary an optician should be educated up to a certain point in mathematics, letters, and language. There is no limit to mathematical knowledge, but the minimum may be that required for the Spectacle-makers' examination. Literary education is necessary to enable the optician to speak correctly and write grammatically, and languages are useful to enable him to correspond with manufacturers in foreign countries. He must know something of all the instruments he deals in—where and how made, who makes them, and their uses. In regard to the facilities for obtaining such an education, technical institutes and native wit, combined with trade-experience, supplement that obtained in a public school, followed by a course at a university and residence in France and Germany. As a rule, the courses at technical institutes are of too academic a character and not adapted to the needs of the shopkeeper. An exception to this, however, is the special course at the Northampton Institute.

A long discussion took place after the address as to the reply received from the Spectacle-makers' Company, who refuse to receive a further deputation from the Optical Society relative to the appointment of a consultative committee. Eventually a resolution, proposed by Mr. Marks (of Messrs. Botwright & Grey), was carried, that the Society much regretted the decision of the Company.

Barnsley and District Chemists' Association.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of this Association was held on Thursday, March 23, at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley. Owing to the inclement weather the meeting was only moderately attended. The paper was by Mr. J. P. NORWOOD, who gave a review of William Salmon's "London Dispensary" as typical of the *materia medica* and pharmacy of the seventeenth century. He quoted from the old work liberally to show how the nomenclature of the period differs from the present, also how the practice of physic differed, and gave instances indicative of the origin of modern preparations, and of the nature of the pharmacy in Salmon's period.

Bristol Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held on March 23 to hear an address by Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones on the work of the P.A.T.A. and C.D.A. Amongst those present were the President (Mr. G. T. Turner), Messrs. E. Boome, Blissett, Cooper (Weston-super-Mare), T. Buxton, Plumley, W. Pitchford, and Vigis (Bath).

The PRESIDENT offered a cordial welcome to Mr. Glyn-Jones, and expressed his regret that comparatively few of the retail chemists in the kingdom supported the Association by subscribing to its funds, only about one-third of the whole number being members. He attributed this partly to want of knowledge of the work of the Association, and

partly to the general indifference there is amongst retail chemists which prevents them from working together. The speaker thought the Association to be open to criticism in some respects. He thought that the rate of profit the Association insists upon for the retailer to be too high in the case of those patents in large demand. He also thought the subscription of 5% insisted upon from the wholesale manufacturer too high in the case of the man introducing a speciality.

Mr. GLYN-JONES thanked the meeting for his reception, and said it was unfortunately true that only about one-third of the chemists in business were members of the Association, and yet he was frequently asked why the large proprietors were not members. Some men stood aloof from conscientious reasons, but more from, it seems to him, selfish motives, being willing to reap advantage that others had procured for them. He thought the rate of profit insisted upon by the Association was not an unreasonable one, and he urged chemists against many advertising proprietaries on which no profit was made. He did not think that what was called "substitution" was practised to any extent by the retail chemists; indeed, if fairly treated, the retail man was the manufacturers' best friend. Mr. Glyn-Jones also explained the working of the Chemists' Defence Association, and gave numerous illustrations of the useful work it had already done.

The meeting developed into a conversational style, and no formal resolution was passed. All present were in favour of the schemes.

Cardiff Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Queen's Café, Cardiff, on Monday evening, April 1. Mr. J. W. Cooper presided. It was announced that it had been found desirable to make a change in the secretaryship, and that Mr. W. G. Evans and Mr. J. W. Archer, both employed at the shop of Mr. Duck in the High Street Arcade, had been appointed joint Hon. Secretaries. Ten new members were elected. A communication had been received from the Cardiff and District Pharmaceutical Association to the effect that Mr. A. Hagon (President) and Mr. W. J. Sanders (Hon. Secretary) had made a canvass of the chemists' and druggists' shops in the centre of the town, and had obtained their consent to close at 8 o'clock every night except on Saturdays, when the hours of closing would be as usual. This means a reduction in the assistants' time of one to one and a half hour per day. The movement is to commence on Easter Tuesday. No action has yet been taken with regard to the suburban shops. Very great gratification was expressed at the concession, which, it was believed, would have the effect of putting the Assistants' Association on a firm and stable basis.

Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held on Friday, March 29, at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, Mr. George Lunan (President) in the chair. The CHAIRMAN made reference to the death of the Queen, and also to the loss which the Association had sustained through the death of Mr. Rea Ireland McDougall and Mr. Pirie. It was agreed to send letters of sympathy to the relatives of the deceased members. The adjourned discussion took place in committee on the supply of medicine to out-patients by charitable institutions, and it was ultimately agreed to approach the officials of certain institutions on the subject for information. The meeting then considered the draft Pharmacy Bill. Mr. BOWMAN objected to Clause 14 of the Bill, and thought it should extend to Ireland. Mr. J. R. HILL explained the meaning of several of the clauses, and counselled the meeting not to anticipate that the Bill would be defeated, but to work for it as if it were to pass. It was explained with regard to Clause 7 that only those directors—one or more—of a joint-stock company drug-business who were registered could take any part in the management of the business. Several members expressed the belief that the Bill with that clause as it stood would not pass; but ultimately it was unanimously resolved to thank the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society for the efforts they had made to draft a Bill adapted

to deal effectively with the present adverse conditions affecting pharmacy and prejudicial to the public interests, and pledging themselves to support the Bill and do all in their power to get it passed into law.

The members then took up consideration of early closing, and replied to THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST'S questions supporting Lord Avebury's Bill, and suggesting an alteration in Clause 9.

A committee was appointed with powers to make arrangements for the annual picnic. Among the places mentioned for the day's outing were the Abbotsford district and Hamilton and the Falls of the Clyde. This was all the business.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on March 29, Mr. David Harley (President) in the chair. Mr. W. B. COWIE gave a lecture on "The Life-history of Plants," illustrated by diagrams, including *Saccharomyces*, *Marchantia*, *Equisetum*, *Selaginella*, *Aspidium*, *Pinus*, and the higher phanerogamia. On the motion of the PRESIDENT, a cordial vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Cowie. The Association then considered Lord Avebury's Early-closing Bill, and unanimously resolved to approve of its principle, and instructed the office-bearers to give an affirmative answer to the queries submitted by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association.

A SPECIAL MEETING of the members was held in the Society's Rooms, West Regent Street, Glasgow, on Tuesday forenoon, April 2, to consider the amended draft

PHARMACY BILL.

MR. W. L. CURRIE (President), who was in the chair, said the object of the meeting was to consider whether or not the Bill was worthy of their support. Replying to Mr. Dunlop, Mr. Currie said the 1869 amending Act would still be in force as regards medical men.

MR. DAVID MOIR remarked that the clause dealing with registration was the only good feature he saw in the Bill. The amended Bill practically conceded everything that the limited-liability companies desired. He did not think they should waste their time in discussing it, being of opinion that it would be better to have the companies in the position in which they now stand than give them a decided legal standing.

MR. WALKER confessed his inability to understand some of the clauses of the Bill.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had very carefully considered the Bill and discussed it with others well versed in pharmacy matters. His opinion coincided with that of those whom he had consulted that the Bill was very lax, and that there were still loopholes for diversity of opinion. As Mr. Hill had said, almost every clause of it could be reduced to *reductio ad absurdum*.

MR. WATSON (the Secretary) drew attention to Clause 4, which did not say that the owner was to be registered. There was nothing to prevent an unqualified man making an application for a registered shop.

THE CHAIRMAN said he thought they should certainly take exception to Clause 2 in any case. It had been referred to the Lord Chancellor, he added, to ascertain whether he would take up the Bill. He did not think the Lord Chancellor would ever read it, let alone consider it. His Lordship indicated last year that a short Bill should be introduced to amend the Pharmacy Act of 1868. Instead of that they had a very large order.

After further discussion, Mr. DUNLOP moved the following resolution:—

That the object and aim of the draft Bill be approved of with the following suggestions:—That it be specifically stated that no unqualified person can register a shop and put it under qualified management; that all directors of a company shall be registered, not with a minimum of one; that the registration of shops and managers be annual; and that it be an offence not to immediately notify a change of management to the Registrar.

MR. WATSON seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

THE COUNCIL ELECTION.

THE CHAIRMAN then stated that the Council election would take place in May. Mr. Maben and he had been nominated, but upon finding out that there were something like fourteen or fifteen Scotsmen in the running they had decided to retire. There were certainly four or five Scotsmen going to stand.

MR. MOIR remarked that he should prefer divisional representation.

THE CHAIRMAN said that it was a matter which should have received more attention from the North British Executive. He was afraid there would be no Scotsman elected to the Council this year.

It was agreed to hold the annual meeting on Thursday April 25, at 11 A.M., when some of the rules may be altered.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re WILLIAM SEARLE PARROTT, High Street and Queen's Road, Watford, Chemist and Dentist.

MENTION was made of this case at a hearing for public examination on March 29. It was stated that certain papers had been placed in the Official Receiver's hands concerning the debtor's affairs, but he (the Official Receiver) had not had an opportunity of going into them, and the examination was again adjourned.

Re JOHN MILLER, Blairgowrie, N.B., Veterinary Surgeon.

AN offer of a composition of 2s. in the pound has been made in this matter, payable in one month after debtor's final discharge. Dr. Robert Miller, 80 Nethergate, Dundee, is security on the understanding that the estate be conveyed to the cautioner upon the offer being accepted and approved. The bankrupt also offers to pay the whole expenses attending sequestration, and remuneration to the trustee. The assets are estimated to produce (after paying preferable claims for rent, wages, &c.), 133%. The amount of ordinary claims is stated at 938*l*.

Re WILLIAM SWAN, 91 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, Chemist and Druggist. (Trust Deed.)

IN a circular issued by Mr. W. C. Steven, C.A., the trustee in this case, it is stated that the chief cause of Mr. Swan's embarrassment has been want of capital, by which he has been handicapped since commencing business. The statement of affairs shows liabilities amounting to 1,386*l*., and assets estimated to produce 583*l*.. The latter include heritable properties at Nos. 92, 94, and 100 Morningside Road, on which a possible deficit of 100*l*. is ranked for; book debts, 33*l*.; stock-in-trade (valued at cost), 460*l*.; shopfittings, &c., 150*l*.. Acting on the advice of the four largest creditors, valuations of the assets, heritable and movable, are being made, and the business is being advertised for sale as a going concern. At present it is being carried on under a qualified manager, and the trustee suggests the appointment of an advisory committee for consultation with him.

Re JAMES RICHARD COLLINS, lately carrying on business at Hart Road, West Hartlepool, Drug-store Proprietor.

At the Sunderland Bankruptcy Court on March 28, the public examination of this debtor took place. The gross liabilities are returned at 376*l*. 16s. 9*d*., of which 367*l*. 8s. 5*d*. is expected to rank for dividend, and his assets are returned at 160*l*. 19s. 2*d*.. He attributes his failure to bad trade and want of capital. From his examination by the Official Receiver it appeared that he had been extremely careful in keeping his books of account, and to have balanced his cash book every day. He started business in 1899 with a capital of 61*l*., and had since taken out of his business 120*l*. a year for household and personal expenses. He had borrowed 35*l*., 15*l*., 52*l*. 10s., and 51*l*. (the last item being from his wife), but had repaid none of the money. Last August he appeared to be solvent, but had incurred a good many of his trade debts since then. His shop was in a poor-class neighbourhood, where he sold in small quantities and made good profits, but owing to want of capital to stock the shop the turnover was not large enough. He was ordered to file a deficiency account, and his examination was adjourned till April 18. The following are amongst the unsecured creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Ayrton & Saunders, Liverpool	...	10	10
Collins, Mrs. E. J. (wife)	...	50	2
Hill, Mrs. George, Stockton	...	52	10
Ismay, John, & Sons Newcastle-on-Tyne	...	10	15
Jack, R., Hartlepool	...	35	0
Mitschke, Ernest, Liverpool	...	15	0
North Eastern Banking Company	...	48	15
Raines & Co., Stockton-on-Tees	...	21	17
Raines & Co., York	...	26	7

The Bill Bird.

A Song of Higher What Ho!



From left to right the figures in Mr. Reynolds's cartoon are:—Top row: Messrs. Waddington (Manningham), Allen (London), Branson (Leeds), Harrison (Sunderland), Bremridge (London), Squire (Sheffield); second row: Messrs. Silson (Bradford), Pollett (Leeds), Stead (Heckmondwike), Handford (Harrogate), and to the extreme right the artist

and Mr. Long (Leeds), whose resemblance to the Kaiser is notable. Bottom row: Messrs. Broadhead (Batley), Maud (Pontefract) (back view) Yewdall, (Leeds) (back view) Pickard (Bradford), Sarjeant (Leeds), Shepherd (Settle), and Mac-Alley (P., D. & Co.'s representative). In the centre is portrayed the bird whose claws have increased.

From the wigwags of the Tyke-land,
Decked out in their brightest feathers,
Came the medicine-men—the Medas,
'Cutest cards and Pharma Cutists,
Everyone a chief professor
In the subtle art of poison,
Summoned by the Bird of Bloomsb'ry—
Patient, plodding Bird of Bloomsb'ry—
One eye fixed upon the Bill Bird,
And another eye on custom:
All together smoking peace pipes,
Cogitating on the next move
Of those "claws" more than doubled
Since the day the Coun-Sell woke up—
Woke up to the need of measures
For their own and others' safety,
Since the cry for Regis Trayshun
Sounded loud across the prairie;
Wondering where the "claws" are
sharpest,
Wondering if the Bird will fatten
And perchance become an "Oof-bird"

Then uprose the chief * from Kill-Burn,
Waved his calumet above him,
Called on all to feed the Bill Bird,
Feed it with the choicest dainties—
Much the worse for those who do not;
We can manage well without 'em.
So he argued in his ardour.

Smiling, said the portly Justice,
From the Sunder-Land of Dor-ham †
Take the Bird, O ye my brothers!
Let it live and dwell amongst you.
We shall find it very useful;
It shall roost above our wigwags,
Guarantee the Pub-Lick safety,
Keep the other fowls in order;
Fowls that chase us on the prairie,
Some from store-house, some from wag-
gons,

* Model Pharmar.

† Colloquially, or, as some say, "Dorm," otherwise Durham.

Travelling waggons caravan-like
Roaming round to spoil the custom,
All shall slink into a corner,
With no open shop to roost at,
If they take not our currie'lum.

We shall spot the place and label
(All within the Bill Bird's meaning)
If there chances misadventure,
Gruesome, tragic misadventure,
Poisoning by misadventure;
So for all alike it shall be,
And the people will seem happier,
Knowing all about their poisons:
Such a blessed thing is knowledge!

Ah, bnt stay, my learned brother,
Great but unremunerated
Member of the Magistrati,
What if you and I be let in
By unqualified assistants?
What if you and I be hanled up,
Charged with selling what we ought not?

Should we each consign the other
To the darkest deepest dungeon?
Thus did plead the worthy Justice
From the citadel of liquorice,
From the town of Pom-pom-fret* cakes,
Where he works his will on poisons,
Teaching all men how to know them.

In such case, his brother answered,
'Twould be matter of arrangement:
There would be no bull's eye policeman
Hanging round to hang offenders,
But from Bloomsb'ry would the judgment
Sally forth with flash of searchlight—
Sally swift to meet each instance
On its merits or demerits,
Just as men are County-Courted
When they grow a bit forgetful.

Thus the Pom-Wow went crescendo
Like a cl'ash of eight-ounce bottles

* Pontefract, or Pomfret, is celebrated in
history and military annals.

In the busy cleaning process.
First the venerable grey-beard,
Then the youthful Imperator,
Then the frequent "Heck, mon! twig?
eh?"

Running close the fighting pique hard,
Then the fluent MacGlobetrotter—
All for equal rights and treatment,
But with privilege for title,
Fairest play in Regis Trayshun,
Till at length the squire "fra' Sheffield"
Boldly moved a resolution
Which the Homœ (O Pathetic!)†
Honoured with his kind approval.

Whereupon the brave from Bat-Lee,‡
He with little plumage nodding,

* Heck - mon - dwike—a canny West-
Riding town.

† A homœopathic chemist seconded the
motion.

‡ Batley sent a critic.

Yet with head as broad as any,
Gravely to the chiefs gave counsel
That while other things compounding
They did not compound Fel-O ny:
"Three months' hard"—as hard as pestle
When it crunches in the mortar—
"Three months' hard" he saw in prospect
Like a liver-pill before them;
Also smelt he Mon-O poly.

None the less, with peace-pipes sending
Fragrant incense to the ceiling,
All the men of mark assembled,
All save one, with hands uplifted,
Blessed the Bill Bird where it cowered,
Blessed it bed and board and baggage,
Blessed it for a thing of beauty,
Destined to bring joy for ever.

* * * *

Then they rose, and each man wandered
Out to take his "special" poison!

W. H. SCOTT.

Gazette.

The Bankruptcy Acts 1883 and 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

Davies, John, Torquay, Devonshire, chemist.

Potter, Charles Compton, Seal, Kent, mineral-water manu-
facturer.

Powell, William Llewellyn, Newtown, licensed victualler
and aerated-water manufacturer.

Roberts, Frederick George, Ludgate Hill, E.C., dentist.

ADJUDICATION ANNULLED.

Partington, John, Horwich, Lancashire, mineral-water
manufacturer.

RECEIVING ORDERS.

Brooks, William P., late Carliff, now Porth, Glamorgan-
shire, doctor of medicine.

Whittaker, Thomas (trading as the Cheetham Chemical
Company), Manchester, aniline-dye manufacturer.

From the "Edinburgh Gazette."

SEQUESTRATION.

Grosvenor, West & Co., Bilbao Chemical-works, 46 Bilbao
Street, South Side, Glasgow, manufacturing chemists, and
Alfred Miller, 46 Bilbao Street aforesaid, and residing at
31 Camphill Street, Strathbungo, the sole partner of said
firm, manufacturing chemist. Creditors will meet in the
Faculty Hall, St. George's Place, Glasgow, on April 9, at
12 o'clock. McGrigor, Donald & Co., 172 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow, agents.

THE KING'S MEDICAL ADVISERS.

THE *Gazette* of March 30 contains an announcement from the
Lord Chamberlain's office, St James's Palace, dated March 29,
1901, to the effect that the King had been pleased to make ap-
pointments of medical and other advisers as undernoted. We
have prefaced the new appointments with the corresponding list
which was in force at the death of Queen Victoria:—

QUEEN VICTORIA.

Sir E. H. Sieveking, M.D.
Sir James Reid, Bart., M.D.
Sir R. D. Powell, Bart., M.D.

KING EDWARD VII.

Physicians in Ordinary.

Sir W. H. Broadbent, Bart.
Sir James Reid, Bart., M.D.
Sir Francis Laking, M.D.

Physicians Extraordinary.

Sir A. B. Garrod, M.D.
Sir S. Wilks, Bart., M.D.
Sir W. H. Broadbent, M.D.
J. E. Pollock, Esq., M.D.
Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., M.D.

Sir Joseph Fayrer, Bart., M.D.
Sir R. D. Powell, Bart.
Sir Edward H. Sieveking, M.D.
Sir Felix Semon, M.D.
John Lowe, Esq., M.D.

Physician to Household.

Sir Thomas Barlow, M.D.

Honorary Surgeons in Ordinary.

None
Thomas Bryant, Esq., F.R.C.S.
Alfred Downing Flipp, Esq.,
M.S., F.R.C.S. Eng.
Rickman John Godlee, Esq.,
M.S., F.R.C.S. Eng.

Honorary Serjeant-Surgeon.

Lord Lister, F.R.C.S. | Frederick Treves, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Surgeon to Household.

R. J. Godlee, Esq., F.R.C.S. | Herbert W. Allingham, Esq.,
F.R.C.S. Eng.

Surgeon-Apothecary to His Majesty and Apothecary to Household.

Sir Francis Laking, M.D. | Sir Francis Laking, M.D.

Honorary Surgeon-Oculist.

George Lawson, Esq., F.R.C.S. | G. A. Critchett, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Honorary Surgeon-Dentist.

Sir Wm. Saunders | Henry Bell Longhurst, Esq.

Dentist to Household.

Edwin Thomas Truman, Esq. | Edwin Thomas Truman, Esq.

Honorary Anaesthetist.

None | Frederick W. Hewitt, Esq., M.D.

Chemist and Druggist to Household.

Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire | Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire

Surgeons-Apothecary to Household at Windsor.

William Fairbank, Esq., } Jointly William Fairbank, Esq., }
M.D. } M.D. }
William A. Ellison, Esq., } Jointly William A. Ellison, Esq., }
M.D. } M.D. }

Surgeon-Apothecary to Household at Sandringham.

(Osborne) W. Hofmeister, Esq., | Alan Reeve Manby, Esq., M.D.
M.D.
H. E. W. Hofmeister, Esq., M.B.

Honorary Physicians in Ordinary in Scotland.

Sir W. T. Gairdner, M.D. | Sir W. T. Gairdner, M.D.
Geo. W. Balfour, Esq., M.D. | Geo. W. Balfour, Esq., M.D.

Honorary Surgeons in Scotland.

Patrick Heron Watson, Esq., | Patrick Heron Watson, Esq.,
M.D. | M.D.
Alexander Ogston, Esq., M.D. | Alexander Ogston, Esq., M.D.

Honorary Surgeon-Oculist in Scotland.

D. A. Robertson, Esq., M.D. | D. A. Robertson, Esq., M.D.

Surgeon-Dentist in Scotland.

J. Smith, Esq., M.D. | No appointment

Honorary Physicians in Ordinary in Ireland.

Sir J. T. Banks, K.C.B., M.D. | Sir J. T. Banks, K.C.B., M.D.
William Moore, Esq., M.D. | William Moore, Esq., M.D.

Honorary Surgeons in Ireland.

Sir P. C. Smyly, M.D. | Sir P. C. Smyly, M.D.
Sir W. Thomson, M.D. | Sir W. Thomson, M.D.

Honorary Surgeon-Oculist in Ireland.

C. E. FitzGerald, Esq., M.D. | C. E. FitzGerald, Esq., M.D.

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE AT NUNEATON has a tender conscience, and it is to be regretted that certain members of the Pharmaceutical Council are not similarly endowed. The gentleman referred to wrote lately to his District Council as follows:—"I am sorry to say that the chimney of my house caught fire on Saturday, the 16th inst. Please be good enough to issue a summons against me, because it will never do to proceed against other people if I overlook a case on my own premises." How does that strike the prosecutors of Mr. Reece, the defendant in the Pharmacy Act case who had to pay 2s. 6d. and 10% costs for using a trade name on his poison-labels?

MR. R. J. MOSS'S RETIREMENT from the conduct of the "Corner for Students" in this journal naturally directs attention to that department. This is, and has been for many years, and under Dr. Dobbin will, I doubt not, long continue to be a most striking feature of journalism. So far as I know there is nothing like it in the world either in journals of pharmacy or in connection with any other occupation. I have often seen in technical periodicals a series of lectures for students, which can be only a mere recasting of the information to be got from any one of the myriads of text-books, and I have wondered whether any student really values or even uses such lectures. Certainly he will find it infinitely more convenient to plan out his study of a science for himself with a text-book by his side. But this "Corner for Students" was so devised as to actually teach young men practical analysis. They have to be fairly well grounded in the science, but given that their work is supervised and closely tested in comparison with that of 50 or 100 others at the same time, and, though it can hardly be said that the training thus effected by correspondence is better than that provided under the immediate eye of a teacher, the separate-work system has the immense advantage of compelling the competitor to fight his own way to his conclusions.

IF THERE ARE, as I gather, something like a thousand men in the ranks of British pharmacy to-day who have had the benefit of these exercises, it would be interesting to know what use it has been to them in after-life. I am not referring to such men as Mr. Shenstone and Dr. Dobbin, who have made scientific chemistry the work of their lives, and who would no doubt have done so without this incidental stimulus, but I should like to know whether analytical skill has really proved to be of much use to the pharmacist; whether, in fact, he makes it a paying section of his business. Discreetly made use of no advertisement can be more effective than an occasional demonstration by a pharmacist of his mastery of the art of analysis. But are there opportunities, or can opportunities be created, for profitably developing this art as a practice?

MR. PATERSON FIGHTS GALLANTLY against the case made out in reply to his contention by the *C. & D.*, but I am not reconverted by his letter. The Charter certainly uses the terms "members of the Council" and "officers" rather loosely, but it is difficult to get over the prescription (lines 120 to 125) that certain people are to constitute the first Council, and are to continue such "until the first general meeting for the election of officers," followed as this is by the use of the same expression in the Acts of 1852, 1868, and 1898, where by "officers" was evidently meant the Council

and the Auditors. I can only suppose that the term "officers" was adopted in these cases as a short way of referring to the members of the Council and the Auditors by one word.

THE WELSH are notoriously a poetic people, and we are sometimes told that their language encourages this tendency, though it does not look as if it does. Mr. Drane, of Cardiff, if not of Celtic origin himself, has evidently assimilated the national characteristic. His short speech, reported last week, was full of poetry. Manufacturers, he said, were endeavouring to "force proprietary articles down their throats," but he for one "put his foot" on their products, and for that was regarded as "a wolf in the fold." Notwithstanding all his efforts, however, he could not "stop the flood of folly." I cannot help admiring the evidently natural ease and grace with which we poor slow Saxons are hurried from one image to another with a reckless disregard of our mental equilibrium.

TAXES ARE ALL BAD, but it will be difficult for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to hit on one that will be worse for the country than the suggested one on sugar. Besides the enormous cost of collecting it—especially if there is to be differentiation of raw and refined, beet and cane, sugar from British possessions, and sugar from Java, Peru, or Brazil—vast industries, employing perhaps directly or indirectly nearly a million persons, which, thanks to the rivalry of continental Governments, have grown up in this country, will be dislocated, and small interests, including that of pharmacy, will be unjustly injured. Our syrups and conserves will all be dearer, and it will be impossible to collect an extra penny from our customers for any one of them. Sugar, even in its refined state, is far more used as a raw material of our manufacturers than directly as an article of luxury, and this is the essential reason why it should be left alone. As a temporary tax it would be wiser and more remunerative to double the duty on tea than to put a halfpenny per pound on sugar. Either would bring in a net revenue of some 5,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., and either would hit all classes of the population, which is the justification generally put forward by the advocates of a sugar-duty.

AS AN ILLUSTRATION TO AN ADVERTISEMENT I have not for a long time seen a happier one than the picture of a hand holding a kitten with the legend "Don't scratch," which I noticed in last week's *C. & D.*, page 66. It was associated with an advertisement of Parasilene, a remedy for eczema.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN, it is suggested, are soon to be added to Germany and the United States as serious competitors with Great Britain for the trade of the world. No doubt; but if I may join the prophets I should like to remark that neither of these nations will be the really formidable manufacturing Power of the future. The mighty competitor that will overthrow us all will be the despised China. All the Powers are now uniting to wake her, and she will awake before long. They want to make railroads for her, and they will make them, and a great many people will make fortunes out of them. Suddenly she will realise that she can make not only railroads, but almost everything else for herself, and for all the rest of the world as well. China has unlimited supplies of coal, and the Chinese can manufacture things better than any other race on earth, and at a fraction of the cost. It is not at all improbable that before the end of this century the banks of the Yang-tse-Kiang will be dotted with factories, Shanghai will be the distributing-port for the world, and Lancashire will be laid out in strawberry-gardens.

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Editorial Comments.

Early Closing.

THE poll which we have recently taken of the Associations of chemists and druggists throughout the country in regard to the Shops (Early-closing) Bill is now sufficiently advanced to permit fuller reference to it than was done last week. We sent out copies of the Bill, and questions regarding it, to seventy Associations, besides several copies to districts which were voluntarily canvassed by subscribers who take more than a normal interest in matters affecting the well-being of their brethren.

First, as to the need of early closing in the drug-trade. One of the questions which we put dealt with this in order that we might obtain reliable data to place before the Committee of the House of Lords; for although we by experience are not unaffected by the common notion that the shop with the crimson lights is amongst the last to close o' nights, a notion, after all, is not much of a guide to those who wish to reform existing conditions. We therefore gather together the data as to hours of closing, and the following paragraphs serve to show at the same time the towns from which we have obtained replies:—

6 to 7 P.M.—Dublin (city).

7 to 8 P.M.—Dumfries (7 summer), Exeter, Whitehaven, Wolverhampton, Workington.

8 to 9 P.M.—Barnsley, Bournemouth, Bristol, Dewsbury, Derby, Dublin, Grimsby, Halifax, Leamington, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Oxford, Wigan, Wrexham.

9 to 10.—Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bury, Cardiff, Dover, Dundee, Edinburgh, Forfarshire towns, Glasgow, Hull, Liverpool, Newport-upon-Ussk, Swansea Torquay.

Some open after 10.—Aberdeenshire towns, Belfast, Birmingham, London, Plymouth, Sheffield, Southport, Sunderland, Great Yarmouth.

It thus appears that it is altogether the exception for chemists' shops to be closed before 8 P.M. In classifying the above we have, for example, included in the 8-to-9 lot not those where the closing-hour is fixed at 8 (which we include in 7 to 8), but those having 8 to 8.30 or 8 to 9 as the closing-time; for experience shows that where an even hour

G. S. MUMFORD

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like 8 is decided upon it is far more easily and honourably carried out than in the case of, say, 8 o'clock with a quarter of an hour's grace. The early-closing hour in Dublin applies solely to the fine city businesses. We have the same experience in London. The town which is at the front of all others in early closing, so far as chemists are concerned, is Whitehaven, where 7 P.M. is the closing-time. Mr. Henry Hunter, President of the local Association there, informs us that thirty-five years ago, when he went into business on his own account, 10 o'clock was the closing-time; he closed at 8, and since then another hour has been cut off the day, and none wish to go back to the old time, while customers are perfectly satisfied. Mr. Hunter has been good enough to volunteer this information, and we consider it of great value, because the one argument of weight which is brought against early closing is that it deprives the public of the opportunity of shopping. Here we have the evidence of experience that it is not so, while the fact that in twenty towns business is done before 9 o'clock without public inconvenience is an excellent reason for the five-and-twenty who close after 9 and 10 to be granted the respite from gaslight labour which they must heartily desire.

The second point to be dealt with, and the chief object of our inquiry, was embodied in the question: "Do you agree that the early closing of shops by statute is desirable?" We have received replies from forty-nine provincial associations of chemists and druggists, one national (Chemists' Assistants' Union), two metropolitan associations, and Mr. John Gibson, of Hexham, has been good enough to get replies from each of the chemists in his district. These last we shall regard as one, making the total association vote up to the time of writing 53. The districts from which no replies have been received are Birkenhead, Bolton, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Darwen, Inverness, North-East Lancashire, Northampton, Northwich, Preston, Reading, Southport, North Staffordshire, Tunbridge Wells, and Windsor. The Associations in some of these places have the matter still under consideration, but their votes are not likely to materially alter the vote as it stands, which is as follows:—

For the Bill

Against the Bill

51

2

Associations.

Associations.

The two against are London West-end bodies. We should explain that the opinions obtained are in the majority of cases the absolute vote of the members convened for the purpose of considering the Bill; where that has not been possible committees have considered the matter, and in a few instances the Secretary has consulted his President before filling in the replies. Some of the votes are exceptionally emphatic, and the Bill has been so well considered and discussed that several valuable points in constructive criticism have come to us. These we must reserve for another occasion. Meanwhile it is a pleasure to observe that the actual objections to the Bill on the part of chemists and druggists may be regarded as a negligible quantity. The opposition to it formerly exhibited by high-class pharmacists is practically dead. That was the disposition to fight for a professional status, and, therefore, non-interference with the conduct of pharmacies; but we are glad to think that the freedom which the Bill gives pharmacists and druggists to supply needful and urgent medical requirements has disarmed this branch of opposition. We note that the subject was brought before the Pharmaceutical Council at Bloomsbury on Wednesday by Mr. Wootton, and, thanks to the vigorous support of Mr. Carteighe, he succeeded in carrying a motion in support of the Bill. We gather from the discussion that the Council's action will not stop there. We hope the President or Vice-President will offer evidence

before the House of Lords Committee. We feel sure that all who have joined with us in getting the opinion of the trade, at the present time and formerly, will be gratified by the determination of the Council to promote trade interests in this matter.

Alkaloidal Chemistry.

THE current issue of the *Berichte* gives us a triple bill in the chemistry of the alkaloids, the results of Pictet and Rotschy on the bases of tobacco, of Pinner and Kohlhammer on pilocarpine, and of Vongerichten on thebenidine being chronicled. Their importance merits immediate treatment.

In the first-named paper it is shown that tobacco, as is the case with many alkaloid-containing plants, yields a series of closely-allied alkaloids, which are all oxygen-free, are volatile without decomposition, and soluble in water. These bases are as follows:—

Nicotine, $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$
Nicotene, $C_{10}H_{12}N_2$

Nicotinine, $C_{10}H_{14}N_2$
Nicotelline, $C_{10}H_{12}N_2$

They have all been separated in a state of purity, and the following short description of their properties will be sufficient to demonstrate their close relationships. Nicotinine is a colourless liquid, boiling between 250° and 255° C., without decomposition. It is isomeric with nicotine. It is soluble in water and all the usual organic solvents, and easily volatile with steam. Its solution has a strongly alkaline reaction, and the odour is sharper than that of nicotine. It forms a crystalline hydrochloride, which gives well-defined crystalline compounds with gold, platinum, and mercuric chlorides. The platinum salt is a yellow crystalline powder unaltered at 290° C. The crystalline gold salt melts with decomposition at 182° to 185° C. It also forms a crystalline picrate melting at 163° C. A careful comparison of properties proves that this new base is not identical with the metanicotine of Pinner. Nicotene is a colourless liquid, boiling at 266° C., and still remaining fluid at -79° C. It has a sp. gr. of 1.0778 and refractive index 1.56021. It is laevorotatory $-46^\circ 41'$. A marked difference exists between this base and nicotine, in that its salts are also laevorotatory, whereas those of nicotine are opposite in sign to the base itself. A crystalline hydrochloride could not be obtained. It yields crystalline gold, platinum, and mercury salts, all of which support the formula assigned to it by the authors. Nicotelline was obtained by crystallisation from water or dilute alcohol in prismatic needles melting at 147° to 148° C., and boiling at above 300° C. It exhibits a neutral reaction to litmus, in contradistinction to all the other alkaloids of the plant. It forms crystalline gold, platinum, and mercury salts, and also a well-defined picrate and bichromate. In the original paper some very interesting theoretical considerations as to the constitution of these bases will be found (*Berichte*, 1901, 696).

Pinner and Kohlhammer show that when pilocarpæic acid (the product of oxidation of pilocarpine with chromic acid) is oxidised by permanganate an acid free from nitrogen can be obtained of the formula $C_7H_{10}O_5$, which they have named iso-hydrochelidonic acid. This acid forms colourless glancing needles, melting at 145° C., easily soluble in water and alcohol, but only slightly so in ether, and not at all in benzene. A number of salts were prepared, the analysis of which support the formula assigned to the acid by the authors. They maintain the correctness of the formula $C_8H_{12}O_5$ for piluvic acid in the free state (with the addition of one molecule of water in the form of salts). A series of fairly concordant analyses of the free acid and of the potassium and barium salts are quoted in support of the

formula. Jowett's analyses of the ethyl ester are also quoted as supporting this formula, rather than that which the latter prefers, and in so far as the carbon figures are in better agreement with Pinner's formula, they are in the right. But the hydrogen figures are in far better accord with Jowett's own formula, and the only assumption that Pinner can make is that it suggests that there may be two atoms less hydrogen than their formula allows, although they have for various reasons preferred to keep the formula as given. To support their formula, they have prepared the amyl ester and analysed it. They quote the results of their analysis of this body as supporting their formula, but a careful examination of the figures shows that they cannot be said to very strongly support either formula. This is no doubt due to the fact that the body was not prepared in a state of purity. The figures are as follows:—

	Carbon Per cent.	Hydrogen Per cent.
Calculated for Pinner's formula ...	65.85	9.76
Calculated for Jowett's formula ...	63.16	8.77
Found	67.07	9.08

In the third paper referred to Vongerichten gives an account of the reduction-product of the base thebenine, which is termed thebenidine. The paper is a contribution to the question of the constitution of the morphine alkaloids, but is not suitable for useful abstraction.

Progress of the Bill.

So far the Pharmaceutical Council has reason to be gratified by the reception of the amended and expanded Pharmacy Bill which was published a month ago. The opposition to it within the legitimate ranks is not prodigious, and, it must also be said, enthusiasm respecting the measure is of less magnitude. This, however, happens to be the condition most favourable for the Council's plan of campaign as unfolded during the past month. Briefly, this plan is to educate members of the trade in regard to the provisions of the Bill, and especially to extinguish, by eloquence and logic, adventitious objections. There appears to be no immediate prospect of the Bill being introduced into Parliament. Although we believe it to be the intention of the Council to take it there, the chances of it getting a backing which will warrant its introduction into either House depend upon the person who, on behalf of the Society, interviews the Lord Chancellor. The support of Lord Halsbury is essential to the passage of the Bill in the near future, because it embodies a subject with which his name is closely identified, so that his colleagues in the Government, as well as the Privy Council, will naturally seek his view of the Pharmaceutical Council's Bill. Hence the extreme importance of deputing the most diplomatic Councillor and subtle reasoner to explain to his Lordship how it happens that the brief and simple measure which he proposed has been expanded into a complex and lengthy document. It will be remembered that his Lordship proposed that—

No company may carry on the business and use the description of a pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist unless the business is *bonâ fide* conducted by a manager or assistant being a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist or chemist and druggist, as the case may require, nor unless the name of the person so qualified is conspicuously posted in the shop or other place in which the business is carried on, but, subject to this provision, anything which would be an offence under Section 15 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, if committed by an individual, shall be an offence if committed by a company.

This was inadequate, for those registered under the Pharmacy Act desired also (1) restriction of titles to individuals; (2) a qualified manager for each shop; and (3) qualified

managers at the head of each company's business. As the directors of a company are the supreme managers they are the persons who should be qualified under the third provision, and so the Pharmaceutical Council has decided. There should not be much difficulty in persuading the Lord Chancellor that the additional provisions would be conducive to the safety of the public, and are not an unreasonable protection to persons who have spent money and time in qualifying as the Pharmacy Act requires, but it would not be so easy to convince such a master of simplicity and terseness of diction that the length of the official Bill is either desirable or necessary. Still, if the Lord Chancellor's opposition can be disarmed, that in itself would be a great gain, especially if the Council succeeds in getting the trade of the country to support the Bill as it stands against any opposition which may be brought to bear upon it on behalf of the companies and unqualified poison-sellers. That, we take it, is the object of the combined efforts and eloquence of Mr. John Harrison, Mr. C. B. Allen, Mr. Newsholme, and Mr. Glyn-Jones, but we trust that these gentlemen and others who may join in the campaign will not keep their ears shut to possible methods of improving and simplifying the Bill, for success in matters of this kind frequently depends more upon listening calmly than declaiming vehemently.

An Advance in Prussian Pharmacy.

THE great wish of Prussian pharmacists has at last been realised. In future they are to have their own representatives. A decree was signed by his Majesty the Kaiser, at Windsor, on February 2, and has now been published. It provides that every Prussian province is to have an "Apotheker-kammer" (Chamber of Pharmacists) at the seat of the Upper President. The business sphere of the Apotheker-kammer includes all questions related to pharmacy as a profession or to the supply of medicaments; also to uphold and represent the interests of pharmacists. The Chamber has the right to present all demands to the Government, and to discuss all proposals or amendments. All pharmacists in possession of their State examination certificate and are German subjects, whether owners or assistants, will be eligible to vote or to be elected. Apothekers who have in any way lost the respect due to them or their profession may have the right of voting temporarily or permanently withdrawn by the Chamber. The elections will take place in November every three years. A list of electors will be published by the President of the county. For every forty electors one representative and a substitute are to be chosen, and a Chamber will contain at least six representatives and as many substitutes. The costs for this year's election will be paid by the Government; the others must be contributed to by the apothekers. Every Chamber of Apothekers is to elect a delegate and his substitute to form the "Apothekerkammer-ausschuss" (Chamber of Pharmacists' Committee), with headquarters in Berlin. This committee will act as the medium between the Minister for Medical Affairs and the different Apotheker Chambers, and between the Chambers. The committee will discuss any proposed laws presented by the Minister before passing them on, and then compile the results obtained from the Chambers, and present these to the Minister. The formation of these Chambers of Pharmacists, on the same model as those of medical practitioners, has been the greatest wish of all Prussian pharmacists, and in future they are assured of some measure of protection from sudden police regulations; while for the first time they will be able to express their opinion, and work with the Minister in matters of their profession. The law at present applies only to the kingdom of Prussia, as such matters are not "imperial," but regu-

lated by the different States; it is, however, hoped that other States of Germany will follow the example of the Kaiser's kingdom. We may explain that the new Chamber is not unlike what a Pharmaceutical Committee of our Privy Council would be if such an ideal representation were given to British pharmacists.

THE CENSUS.

On April 1 the decennial census of the United Kingdom was taken. The *Times* makes a complaint in regard to it which applies to the class whom we represent. In the instructions the census-paper, referring to the legal profession, asked the head of the house to specify "barristers," "solicitors," or their subordinates when the entry required, but for the medical profession no classification was required; and as nearly all the words in common use which bear upon this subject are of uncertain meaning and indefinite application the census will be far from complete in this respect. No one can say whether the word "physician" indicates a Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries or a Fellow of the Royal College in Pall Mall; or whether the word "surgeon" means a family practitioner or one who mainly devotes himself to the performance of operations. The only information given will be the bare number of persons, male or female, who are actually employed in the work of endeavouring to heal the sick. The grievance—for such we take the *Times'* complaint to be—is not a big one, and is perhaps more expressive of medical jealousy of law than anything else, for more depends upon the use made by the Registrar-General's subordinates of the facts supplied to them than on the preliminary classification of the census-paper. We hope, for example, that some means will be taken to divide that large and growing class called "chemists" into several distinct groups, such as

1. Chemists engaged as teachers.
2. Chemists practising as analysts and consulting-chemists.
3. Chemists employed or engaged in industries or other productive pursuits.
4. Chemists connected with pharmacy and the drug-trade.

The tendency of the census-enumerators is to lump facts supplied to them, and this is probably pardonable, but we hope their intelligence will enable them to differentiate more than formerly.

THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL REGISTERS.

The new editions of the medical and dental registers which are just published (6s. and 3s. 4d., Spottiswoode & Co.) furnish some interesting statistics of the growth of the medical and dental professions. At the end of 1900 there were 33,355 medical practitioners on the register, the average for five years being 35,273. The number of names added by registration during the year is 1,345, nearly the same as in 1899, but the erasures have been on a more liberal scale, being 938 against 688 in 1899, and an average of 733 for the last five years. It may be noted also that the number of registered men is more than half as many again as it was in 1876, when it stood at 22,713, since when, with the exception of two years when the removals were particularly heavy, there has been, as might be expected, steady upward progress. The percentage of English and Irish qualifications registered is declining, but Scotch qualifications are increasing in number. In regard to the dental register a total of 4,509 names is registered, and of these 58.63 per cent. were in practice before July 22, 1878. It will apparently be a matter of some years before the proportion of licentiates in dental surgery of the various colleges catches up with this percentage. There are three dentists registered under colonial qualifications, and twenty-two with either Harvard or Michigan doctorates.

DOSES OF ARSENIUM COMPOUNDS.

Dr. Ninian Falkiner recently gave a paper before the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland tracing the ratio of the doses of the official compounds of arsenium to the percentage of arsenium in each compound. The following table gives the results obtained:—

	Per Cent. of As	Approximate Strength of Equal Weights	Minimum B.P. Dose in Grains.	Minimum Dose as Calculated from the Minimum Dose of As_2O_3	Equivalent in Minims of Liquors to a Minimum Dose of Solids
As_2O_3 ...	75.77	4.5	.016	.016	1.6m Fowler's solution 1.6m De Valangin's solution 3.0m Pearson's solution
Na_2HAsO_4 ...	40.03	2.4	.025	.030	—
$\text{Fe}_2(\text{AsO}_4)_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$	28.96	1.6	.062	.045	—
AsI_3 ...	16.5	1.0	.052	.072	7.2m Donovan's solution

Dr. Falkiner pointed out, however, that in the consideration of dosology of the arsenium preparations the question of solubility and the relation between the chemical constitution of a compound and its pharmacological activity must be considered. Sir Geo. Daffey also pointed out that the element arsenium is not to be taken into account so much as the nature of the salt employed.

ROSBACH UNDER THE HAMMER.

What memories are recalled by the name of Rosbach! Ten or twelve years ago a few of the most enterprising men in the English drug-trade were prepared to stake their fortunes upon it, and it had a magnificent office in the Fifth Avenue, New York. On Tuesday of this week it was put up for auction in the historic Tokenhouse Yard Mart, and a single bid of 1,000% was made for it. A C. & D. representative who went to see the expected *finale* reports a large attendance of interested parties, mostly shareholders. Before offering the property the auctioneer announced that the sales of the company for the first six months of 1900 amounted to 10,000%. Since then, however, a receiver had been appointed, advertising was stopped, and the sales went down—as was to be expected. Included in the above amount, the knight of the hammer explained, 491% was represented by orders from China and 268% from Egypt. Recently further orders had been received from China for 450 cases, and from Hong Kong for 130 cases, so that the foreign trade is still not to be ignored. Nevertheless, this single sporting offer of 1,000% was all that came of the thing, and that after some hesitation, so the property was withdrawn.

SODII CARBONAS.

When sodium carbonate is rendered anhydrous, it does not remain so unless it is carefully kept, and this fact raises the question of the best means of keeping it in a dry condition. If it were cast into sticks as is done with other hygroscopic and deliquescent solids such as zinc chloride, potassium acetate, sodium hydrate, and potassium hydrate, it would keep much better. There does not appear to be any loss of carbon dioxide when it is melted in a platinum

crucible by the blow-pipe and pouring the molten mass on a clean and bright iron spatula. With care it can easily be obtained in convenient pellets of suitable size or as sticks by use of proper moulds.

N.Y. PHARMACY-LAW OPPOSITION.

Several Bills are now pending in the New York State Legislature to amend the State Pharmacy Law which came into effect in January last. Five amendments of the new law are being opposed by an influential delegation representing the principal pharmaceutical associations and colleges of pharmacy in New York State. One of the most important amendments to the present law deals with the registration of pharmacies and drug-stores, and seeks practically to prohibit the re-registration of drug-stores and places where drugs, poisons, and medicines are sold if they have once been registered. It is pointed out that, should this amendment pass, the State Board would be unable to keep track of all such stores, as the location of the premises might be changed after the first registration; moreover, the standard of the original pharmacy might be lowered. Further, the revenues received from registration would be reduced materially, and there would not be sufficient funds to defray the expenses of a thorough inspection of drug-stores and pharmacies. Another amendment would authorise the State Board of Pharmacy to issue a licence for a grade of "licensed pharmacist" to any applicant who complies with all the requirements of the present law and also with the Board's rules except as to passing an examination. Also that a man should be entitled to become a "licensed druggist," without examination, if he has had three years' practical experience with a licensed pharmacist. Another amendment, if accepted, would interfere with the proper sale of poisons. Some of the large firms who handle dental supplies have, it is said, been making a practice of selling cocaine and similar drugs to dentists or to their messengers, and presumably to anyone, without the required poison-label, the name of the article simply being placed on the packet. Should this amendment be passed, it is argued that the continuance of this practice would be practically legal. The delegates, who have been to Albany to lay their views before the Senate Committee on Public Health, point out that fully 90 per cent. of the organised druggists throughout the State are not only strongly opposed to the amendments, but to any amendments whatever to the State Pharmacy Law as it at present exists. They insist that the law has not been in effect long enough to show its defects, and whatever changes are proposed should be decided upon by pharmacists and druggists of the entire State at a meeting of the State organisation, which seems, at the least, a reasonable proposition.

Recent Wills.

DAY.—The will of Mr. John Robert Day, chemist and druggist, Liverpool, who died on November 20 last, has been proved in the local district registry. Mr. Day had three shops in Liverpool. Probate has been granted to Mrs. Harriet B. Day, widow, the executrix being Mr. A. Villar. The gross value of the estate is 2,244*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.*, and the net personality 831*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* The whole is left for the benefit of Mrs. Day and testator's seven children.

Goss.—The will of Mr. Samuel Goss, J.P., pharmaceutical chemist, of 3 Rock Park Terrace, Barnstaple, who died on January 10 last, has been proved in the principal Registry by the executors, Henry C. Guppy, Rugby, banker's accountant, and Arthur F. Seldon, Barnstaple, solicitor. The gross value of the estate is 14,261*l.* 5*s.*, and the net value of the personality 8,558*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.*

"THE ART OF DISPENSING."—"I am satisfied that the book will be exceedingly useful at the dispensing counter. It is well up to date, and cannot fail to be of distinct service to any dispenser."—Mr. G. T. W. NEWSHOLME, F.C.S.

Photographic Notes.

By a Pharmaceutical Camerist.

"NIPPER" COMPETITIONS.

Messrs. W. Butcher & Sons, Blackheath, S.E., have hit upon an idea of a competition for dealers in photographic apparatus and their assistants only. A prize of a guinea is offered for the best set of six negatives and prints taken with the "Little Nipper," and one of two guineas for a photograph of the best display of the same cameras in the shop or window. April 30 is the last day for entries. The competition is likely to still further popularise these cameras among dealers.

PHOTO-SCULPTURES.

At the last exhibition of the Royal Photographic Society considerable interest was excited with a series of photo-reliefs or photo-sculpts. No information was available at the time as to how they were produced, but according to a recent number of the *Photographisches Centralblatt* the process involves the use of about thirty enlarged cinematograph pictures. The brightly illuminated parts of the pictures are cut out and superimposed to form a bas-relief, which is afterwards worked upon. The photographs are apparently taken under special conditions of illumination.

RELIEF PHOTOGRAPHY.

A Parisian friend informs me that he has read M. Edward Loisen's new book on the practice of relief photography. The object of the book is to make relief photography accessible to all. The author, a chemist, describes all the operations he has made in his laboratory to obtain a really presentable relief. He tells how to obtain a profile bust portrait on plaster or copper, forming a veritable medallion for brooch or trinket at the will of the operator. The instructions are, I am told, exceedingly simple. The book is printed in French.

THE MERCURIC-IODIDE INTENSIFIER

was introduced by Messrs. Lumiere & Sons in 1899, and is composed of 1 part of mercuric iodide mixed with 10 parts of anhydrous sodium sulphate and dissolved in 100 parts of water. The solution does not bleach the image like mercuric chloride, and traces of hypo. left in the film do not have such a ruinous effect as they do when the latter chemical is employed. Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. have recently introduced this intensifier as one of their "tabloid" products. The "tabloid" mercuric-iodide and sodium-sulphite tablets are distinguishable by their pretty red colour, and I find no difficulty in readily dissolving them. They are put up in amber tubes, but it should be noted that mercuric iodide is even more poisonous than mercuric chloride.

NEGATIVE-VARNISH.

Equal parts of white hard spirit varnish and spirit filtered through a layer of animal charcoal, placed on a grey filter-paper, forms one of the best negative varnishes one could wish for. A retouching pencil bites well on the surface, and it is also fairly resistant to wear. Sir Henry Truman Wood prefers to give negatives a simple coating of collodion. He finds that sufficient to keep damp from injuring the plate, and holds that a coating of collodion is all an amateur need give his negatives. Dealers should bear this in mind, as the sale of collodion is decidedly flat in these dryplate days.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC ANNUAL.

"The Photographic Dealer's Annual" for 1901 (1*s.*, Messrs. Marshall & Brookes, Harp Alley, Farringdon Street, E.C.) is a useful publication for the photographic chemists. It is, I think, a little late this year, but not less useful than the previous issue. The collection of formulae for developers, as recommended by different makers of plates, is very complete, and handy for reference.

DARK-ROOMS.

Mr. H. Ayre, chemist and druggist, 92 High Street, Poole.
Mr. A. Whitelaw, chemist and druggist, 3 Cross, Cupar, Fife.

Messrs. W. Doig & Son, chemists, St. Phillan's Place, Newport-on-Tay.

Legal Reports.

High Court Case.

DANIELS v. BORON PRODUCTS COMPANY (LIMITED).

THIS action has occupied the time of Mr. Justice Bruce since Monday. The plaintiff, Mr. Joseph Daniels, is a mechanical engineer, and claims for professional services rendered to the defendant company in connection with the extension of their works at Inchbrook, near Stroud. The defendants had acquired a mine in Asia Minor, from which they would get material for the manufacture of boric acid, and they were prepared to spend 16,000*l.* in altering the works so as to fit them for production of the acid on the scale desired. Plaintiff drew plans and specifications, but the works were never carried out. The case is proceeding.

Pharmacy Acts.

THE UNQUALIFIED SELLER.

BEFORE Sheriff Orphoot, in the Edinburgh Sheriff Summary Court, on March 28, a young man named John Hamilton Gordon, an assistant in the shop of Mr. Thomas Lumsden, chemist and druggist, 143 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh, pleaded guilty to having sold a quantity of a liquid preparation of carbolic acid, he not being a qualified chemist.

Mr. Peter Morison, S.S.C., who appeared for the prosecution, stated that carbolic acid had been recently added to the schedule of poisons. The accused was in charge of this shop, Mr. Lumsden being in his principal shop in Linlithgow. Owing to frequent complaints the Registrar had found it necessary to bring the facts under the Sheriff's notice. He drew attention to recent cases of poisoning by carbolic acid in Edinburgh, and the Sheriff remarked that he had seen the cases reported in the newspapers. Mr. Morison asked for a substantial penalty and that a warrant of imprisonment should be given failing payment, as decided in the recent case before the High Court of Justiciary.

Sheriff Orphoot asked if this case had been framed in accordance with that decision.

Mr. Morison replied that it had, and that the alternative of imprisonment was necessary in order to make the decree more effective.

The Sheriff said he quite understood that failing payment or recovery by proceeding there should be imprisonment.

The respondent said he had sold the carbolic acid without being aware at the moment that it was on the schedule. He had only been a short time in the shop, and as this was the first case in regard to carbolic acid in Scotland since the scheduling he asked that the penalty should be as lenient as possible. He had been up for examination, but failed on the last occasion. He had entered for the coming examination on March 15. This complaint was served upon him on March 21, and he thought it hard that in these circumstances that should have been done.

Mr. Morison said it was just because the respondent was not qualified that he did not know that carbolic acid was scheduled. He had several times failed in his examination, and ought to have known that carbolic acid was on the schedule. He strongly condemned the way in which the poison had been sold.

The Sheriff: You refer to the careless way.

Mr. Morison said he did; and, as to the delay in the proceedings, he said they had to await the decision in the High Court appeal case of Gardner before serving any further complaints. The moment that decision was given the complaint was served.

Sheriff Orphoot said he was inclined to deal as leniently as possible with the respondent, but the public must be protected from the consequences of such conduct as that of the accused, and in order also to deter others from similar conduct. He thought it a most improper thing that an unqualified person should be employed in this way in a chemist's shop at all. It being accused's first offence, and the first prosecution for carbolic acid, he would mitigate the penalty very considerably. The fine would be 1*l.*, with 1*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* of expenses, or seven days' imprisonment.

Another assistant, named Peter Brown Addison, employed in the same shop, pleaded guilty to having sold a quantity of opium, which formed an ingredient in a quantity of Bow's liniment, he not being a registered chemist.

Mr. Morison said his Lordship would observe that this offence was committed in the same shop as the former one. It was of importance that in a busy thoroughfare like Gilmore Place a properly qualified person should be in charge of a shop containing a stock of poisons for sale, and that a practice like that here disclosed should be stamped out. Hence the necessity for these prosecutions.

The Sheriff: Can you not get at the employer?

Mr. Morison replied that unfortunately they could not, as it had been decided that the seller was the person who actually sold the poison.

The respondent pleaded that he had only been sent from Linlithgow to take temporary charge of the shop.

The Sheriff said he could draw no distinction between the cases. He must impose the same penalty of 1*l.*, or seven days' imprisonment.

Mr. Morison said that in this case there had been much difficulty in serving the complaint owing to the action of the respondent, whose parents stated that they did not know his address. A fine of 1*l.*, with 1*l.* 9*s.* expenses, was inflicted.

KEEPING OPEN SHOP.

IN the Aberdeen Sheriff Court on March 28, before Sheriff Henderson Begg, Alexander Thomson Duncan was charged with keeping open shop at 82 King Street, Aberdeen, and with having sold by retail a quantity of oxalic acid, he not being a registered chemist. Duncan was also charged with "taking, assuming, or exhibiting" the title "chemist." Mr. Sutherland, who appeared on behalf of Duncan, took objection to the relevancy of the complaint, on the ground that the place where the alleged sale took place wanted specification, and that the exact quantity of oxalic acid said to have been sold was not stated. His Lordship allowed a slight alteration on the complaint, but repelled the objections. Accused pleaded not guilty, and his trial was fixed for April 8.

Obscene Prints Act.

AT Marylebone Police Court on March 30, Thomas Richard Allinson, ex-L.R.C.P.Ed., of Spanish Place, Manchester Square, W., was charged on remand with selling an obscene pamphlet or leaflet for obtaining and procuring for the purpose of uttering and selling certain other obscene pamphlets or leaflets. Evidence by Scotland Yard authorities showed that the accused had, in answer to letters addressed to him in the names of unmarried young women, sent a hook for married women which could not be regarded as obscene, another which was, while a third was highly objectionable. Since the case was first before the Court the defendant's legal advisers had approached the Commissioner of Police and an arrangement had been come to, subject to the approval of the Court, that the whole stock of the six pamphlets should be handed over to the police for destruction, as well as another pamphlet for men which had not been seized, and the defendant would give an undertaking never at any time to publish or provide, sell, or circulate any of the pamphlets complained of. In addition, the defendant had, through his counsel, admitted that the pamphlets were obscene. The Magistrate (Mr. Curtis Bennett) observed that it had been his misfortune to have to read the pamphlets, and in his mind nothing more filthy could possibly have been written. It was impossible to urge in their defence that they were written for the public good, nor could it be urged that they were medical works. They contained as much filth as could be compassed in a given space. The first two summonses he should adjourn *sine die*, and on each of them the defendant would be bound over in 250*l.* to come up for judgment if called upon. In the third he should order that the pamphlets be destroyed forthwith, and he granted 10*l.* 10*s.* costs.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

GROCERS' CREAM OF TARTAR.

AT the Dungannon Petty Sessions last Monday, before a large bench of Justices, the question was raised as to

whether retailers not being chemists and druggists are required to sell cream of tartar of B.P. quality. David and Hugh Latimer, grocers, were summoned for selling cream of tartar which contained 9.4 per cent. of impurities.

Constable Craig, who prosecuted, proved the purchase, and put in the analyst's certificate, which stated that only 2½ per cent. impurities is allowed.

Mr. Meglaughlin, addressing the Court for the defence, said that under the British Pharmacopœia it was true the total impurities must not exceed 2½ per cent., but this applied to cream of tartar when being used as, or in connection with, drugs and dispensed by chemists as such. In the present case it was purchased and sold only as a mere commercial product. It was a well-known fact that commercial products, whether as food or otherwise, varied in quality, and consequently in price, and the price prevailing for purified cream of tartar as sold by chemists and druggists was well known to be in excess by 50 per cent. of that for the mere commercial article sold by grocers, and not as a drug. As nothing had been added to the cream of tartar in question by way of adulteration, the case did not come within the statute as an adulterated article. It was a well-known fact that baking-soda, according to B.P. standard, would cost the public 6d. per lb., whereas it was being sold in its common form at 1d. per lb. No conviction had yet been obtained in regard to cream of tartar under similar conditions to the present case, and it was very important to traders like defendants, who bought their cream of tartar in good faith from wholesale houses in Belfast.

Constable Craig proceeded to quote the recent decision by Mr. Justice Phillimore and Mr. Justice Bruce, when

Mr. Quinn, solicitor, who was also in the case on behalf of the defendants, objected, and asked from what the constable was quoting.

The Constable stated it was from a decision reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

Mr. Quinn objected, saying they had adverse decisions to that in similar cases, but he could not offer the publications in evidence.

David Latimer, one of the defendants, was examined. He said he bought the cream of tartar from Messrs. Thomas McMullan & Co., Belfast. He was a grocer, trading in Dungannon. He had never heard of the British Pharmacopœia, and did not keep two qualities of cream of tartar. People would not purchase the more expensive article.

Constable Craig asked witness how it was he got purified cream of tartar at some of the shops in Dungannon at the same price per ounce as he paid to witness.

Mr. Meglaughlin interposed, and

The constable, in reply, said he paid 1½d. to other traders in Dungannon for samples similar to Latimer's.

Other similar cases were then heard, the defendants being Thomas H. Charles (8½ per cent. impurity; he bought from Mr. Samuel Gibson, Belfast), Terence McGuone (8½ per cent. impurity; defendant bought from Messrs. John Clarke & Co.), and William Irwin, chemist and druggist (11.9 per cent. impurity).

Amongst the witnesses called was Mr. Wm. Madden (Messrs. Thomas McMullan & Co., Belfast), who said 1,000 tons of the 92-per-cent. article was sold for 1 of the 98 per cent., which is for chemists only. He also pointed out that the British Pharmacopœia says "purified cream of tartar" and not "cream of tartar." The old Pharmacopœia did say that.

On behalf of Mr. Irwin, it was stated that he believed the article was all right, and, acting on this supposition, he had sent a sample of the cream of tartar to the London firm from whom he had bought the purified cream of tartar, and on examination it was found to be above 98 per cent. The firm from whom the purified cream of tartar had been purchased had actually arranged to send their representative to be present at the hearing. Mr. Irwin then sent the duplicate sample left by complainant to the firm in question, who submitted it for analysis to Professor Attfield. When the report came back they found that Professor Attfield agreed with Mr. Barklie, the public analyst. Mr. Irwin then found that the cream of tartar supplied to complainant was old stock, and not what the London firm supplied.

Defendant acknowledged he was bound by the British Pharmacopœia.

The Justices retired to consider the cases, and after a short interval the Chairman (Mr. Chambre) announced that the Court was unanimous that a breach of the Act had been committed in each case, but that all the defendants had acted in good faith. A nominal fine would therefore be inflicted in each case of 1s. and costs.

Weights and Measures Acts.

UNSTAMPED SCALES.

AT Brierley Hill on March 28, Messrs. George Pearson (Limited), chemists, Brierley Hill, were charged with having on their premises, for the purposes of trade, a dispensing-balance which was unstamped, and also with having weights which were unstamped. A fine of 20s. and costs was imposed.

At the same court Mr. F. R. Fletcher, chemist, High Street, Brierley Hill, was fined 20s. and costs for having in his possession a dispensing-balance which was unjust to the extent of 3½ gr.

A similar penalty was imposed on Mr. Sidney Smith, chemist, Wordsley, for having an unstamped dispensing-balance in his possession.

County Court Case.

THE CARRIAGE OF S.V.R.

AT the Manchester County Court on April 1, before his Honour Judge Parry, judgment was given in the case of "Macnair v. the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company," relating to the refusal of the defendants to carry spirit of wine as ordinary luggage (see *C. & D.*, March 23, page 487). His Honour held that the defendants were entitled to call the plaintiff's "spirit" dangerous within the meaning of Section 105 of the Railway Clauses Act, 1845. They were therefore entitled to refuse to carry such spirit, or, if they do carry it, to carry it upon their own terms. The classification lists of the defendants were, he said unnecessarily confusing, and the fact that the company found a great difficulty in explaining them, even with the assistance of counsel, showed how useless they must be to the trade. It was still far from clear, said the Judge, whether or not the plaintiff would be entitled to carry his goods in casks or cases. Judgment was given for the defendants, with costs, but leave of appeal was granted to the plaintiff.

New Companies & Company News.

ARPLEY CHEMICAL COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 4,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on by the Arpley Chemical Company, manufacturers of and dealers in bleachers', dyers', and calico-printers' specialities, tallow, oils, soaps, &c.

ALF. SMITH'S AERATED MINERAL-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 3,500l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To acquire the Rockport Aerated Mineral-water Works, Aulborough Street, Scarborough. The first directors are J. H. Delday, G. H. Elgar, T. W. Longdin, M. B. Wellburn, and G. Wherritt. A. Smith has also filed consent to act.

ROBERT HAWKSHAW (LIMITED).—Capital 5,000l., in 1l. share. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of mineral and aerated water and cordial manufacturers, &c., carried on by R. Hawkshaw and W. Wheatley in Hull and Bridlington respectively, and to carry on the business of, *inter alia*, chemists, druggists, chemical-manufacturers, essence-distillers, &c.

GRIMSHAW BROTHERS & CO. (LIMITED).—Capital 12,000l., in 1l. shares (2,000 preference). Objects: To acquire the business of a chemical manufacturer and merchant carried on by Harry Grimshaw, trading as "Grimshaw Brothers," at the Canal Chemical-works, Clayton, Manchester. The first directors are Henry Brogden, Harry Grimshaw, and William A. Oddy.

CHIPPENHAM AERATED-WATER COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To carry on the business of hop-merchants, manufacturers of and dealers in non-intoxicating drinks made from hops, mineral and aerated water manufacturers, hotel and restaurant proprietors, tobacco-conists, &c. The first directors are J. M. L. Mills, F. W. Honniball, and H. Daniels. Qualification, 50l.

LONDON OIL TRUST (LIMITED).—Capital 101,000*l.*, in 100,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each, and 20,000 deferred shares of 1*s.* each. Objects: To acquire, exploit, work, sell, dispose of, and otherwise deal with oil or mineral bearing or mining properties, and to carry on any business connected with the production and supply of oil or mineral substances or other products of the company's property.

CARDIFF DISTRICT SUPER AÉRATION (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and turn to account a licence for the exercise in Cardiff and district of certain patent rights (owned by Super Aération, Limited) relating to a draught-arm for the drawing of aërated liquids from bulk, and to adopt an agreement with H. J. Etherington of the one part, and T. Evans (for the company) of the other part. Registered office, 67 Penarth Road, Cardiff.

ANGLO-SPANISH SALT SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 75,000*l.* in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire a certain saline lake or lagoon, with lands, appurtenances, and mines or mining claims, situated at La Higuera, near Corral Rubio, Albamara, Spain, known as La Mina Fortuna; to work, explore, and develop the said lake; and to purchase, take on lease, or otherwise acquire and turn to account other saline lakes supposed to contain sulphate of magnesia or other salts.

SAVANNAH CHEMICAL COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, drysalers, oil and colour men, importers and manufacturers of and dealers in pharmaceutical, medicinal, chemical, and other preparations, manufacturers of photographic, surgical, and other apparatus and materials, &c. The first subscribers are:—W. S. Duff, Woodland View, Cleveland Road, South Woodford, manufacturing chemist; Mr. J. Grindley, Millfield, Highgate, N.; J. J. Patrick, 7 Mornington Road, Leytonstone, N.E., traveller; L. V. Jessop, 8 Rockmead Road, Victoria Park, N.E., analytical chemist; Mrs. A. Duff, Woodland View, Cleveland Road, South Woodford; Mrs. R. Patrick, 7 Mornington Road, Leytonstone, N.E.; and Mrs. J. L. Jessop, 8 Rockmead Road, Victoria Park, N.E. No initial public issue. The number of directors is not to be less than three nor more than five. The first are W. S. Duff, J. J. Patrick, and L. V. Jessop. Qualification, 200*l.*. Remuneration, as fixed by the company. Registered office, Savannah Wharf, Gainsborough Road, Hackney Wick, N.E.

STEPHEN SMITH & CO. (LIMITED).—A half-year dividend of 6 per cent. on the preference shares has been paid.

MEGGESON & COMPANY (LIMITED).—Warrants for the half-yearly interest on debentures and preference shares, and an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, were posted on April 1.

BOOTS CASH CHEMISTS (EASTERN) (LIMITED).—At a sale of shares at Lincoln on March 29, 100 *l.* 6 per cent. preference shares (paid up) in this company were sold for 26*s.* each. Fifty 1*l.* ordinary shares in the same company realised 2*l.* 1*s.* each.

DAY'S AND BOOTS.—It is rumoured in drug-trade circles in London that Mr. William Day, the managing-director of Day's Metropolitan and Southern Drug Companies, desires to retire from the drug-trade altogether, and that, in consequence, an amalgamation of his companies with those which have been founded and promoted by Mr. Jesse Boot is proposed, so it is said. A representative of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, who called at the Day Companies' office in Newington on Monday to inquire about the matter, was informed that Mr. Day had left for his Easter holidays, and that no information whatever either in confirmation or denial of the rumour could be given.

THE ARGENTINE BORAX COMPANY (LIMITED).—The statutory meetings of creditors and shareholders under the winding-up order made against this company were held on April 1 at the Board of Trade Offices, Lincoln's Inn. The chairman having reported the circumstances of the liquidation, said the liabilities amounted to 8,893*l.*, of which 7,416*l.* represented claims for differences on the non-delivery of borate of lime, brokerage, &c., which would afterwards have to be dealt with by the liquidator. The assets were estimated to produce 2,049*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*, book debts to the extent of 6,370*l.* being treated as valueless, while a total deficiency of 10,114*l.* was disclosed. The proceedings resulted in the nomination of the official receiver as liquidator, with a committee of inspection.

MAYPOLE COMPANY (1899) (LIMITED).—At the first annual meeting of shareholders on March 28, Mr. Walter Black, chairman of the company, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and balance-sheet (see *C. & D.*,

March 30, page 531), said the gross profit on trading accounts had been 12,931*l.* The directors' fees amounted to 525*l.* for the fourteen months. With regard to the trading of the current year, the home sales showed an increase of 40 per cent. over those of last year. Mr. Deakin, managing director of the late company, criticised several items in the accounts, and complained of the amount of reconstruction expenses. He moved as an amendment that a committee of investigation be appointed, but the amendment had only three supporters when put to the vote, and the report and accounts were adopted.

SCHWEPPE (LIMITED).—The report of the directors for 1900 states that the net profits available, after payment of debenture interest and including 2,122*l.* brought forward, amount to 45,787*l.* Interim dividends already paid on preference and ordinary shares absorb 18,000*l.* The directors propose to pay final dividends on preference shares at 2½ per cent., being balance of 5 per cent. per annum, on ordinary shares at 3½ per cent., being balance of 7 per cent. per annum, leaving to be carried forward 5,687*l.* The sales show an increase over those of 1899. Allowance for depreciations, bad and doubtful debts, and expenses of management have been debited against profits. The directors consider it desirable to make increased addition to the reserve fund and to carry forward a larger amount than usual in view of the prevailing high prices of materials and bottles; as a consequence they do not feel able to recommend a dividend on the deferred shares.

MAGOR (LIMITED).—The annual meeting (third) was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on March 28. Mr. Thomas Needham (the Chairman) moved the approval of the report, which he said showed a better state of things than either the directors or shareholders could have expected from the position the business was in in April last year. A deficiency of nearly 3,000*l.* in the six months prior to April 1900 had been reduced to 900*l.* in nine months, and a great deal of that loss was due to the reorganisation in the first three months of the period, to the expenses of putting the business on a sound footing, to valuers' fees, and contracts previously entered into which could not be immediately re-considered. The shops made a loss of 1,900*l.* in the six months prior to March 31, 1900; in the nine months ended December 31 last they had made a profit of nearly 300*l.* The businesses, he affirmed, were now in a far better and healthier condition for making money than they were on March 31 last year. He appealed to the shareholders to suspend hostile criticism till a later date, so that the directors might not be hampered and the business seriously damaged in the eyes of customers. Mr. Harold Fisher Smith (director) seconded the report without comment. A string of questions was put by Mr. Cornelius Bayley, the former managing-director of the company. Replying to these, the Chairman said the directors had taken their fees this year. He, as chairman, got 150*l.*, the other two 100*l.* each. As to his own position with the Company, he was allowed 250*l.* a year to cover all railway, hotel, and other expenses, and, in addition, 25 per cent. on any profits he made for the first two years and 20 per cent. afterwards. Of course, there had been nothing during the last nine months, and he assured them that his expenses had always been exceeded. But having put his hand to the plough he did not mean to turn back. He also informed Mr. Bayley that Needham's (Limited) had an account with Magor (Limited) and *vice versa*, and Needham's account would not exceed Magor's by more than 50*l.* to 100*l.* The sales between the two were practically at cost price. For instance, they had drawn a contract for glycerin at about 15*s.* less than they could have bought it for. For convenience, the books of Magor (Limited) were now kept at Huddersfield. Needham's (Limited) had two shops in Birmingham, but they were drysaltery businesses, and in no way rivals to Magor's. The report was thereafter adopted. Mr. Bayley objected to the re-election of Mr. J. W. Barratt to the directorate, on the ground that his father was the Company's auditor. On a vote, the Chairman declared Mr. Barratt elected, but Mr. Bayley demanded a poll. This was taken at the close of the meeting, and resulted thus:—For Mr. Barratt, 14,460; against (including 5,505 shares held by Mr. Bayley), 6,350; majority for Mr. Barratt, 8,110. Mr. Bayley also objected to the re-election of Mr. C. A. Harrison as auditor, but his amendment was defeated.

Westminster Wisdom.

PETROLEUM ACT.

Mr. Ure (Linlithgow) has again introduced into the House of Commons his bill to amend the Petroleum Act, 1879. It was read a first time on April 3.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS CONSOLIDATION BILL.

Mr. Ritchie asked for leave to bring in a Bill to Consolidate the Factory and Workshops Acts. He hoped the Bill would be sent to a committee, and that the two processes of amendment and consolidation would proceed *pari passu*. The Bill was read a first time.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY INSPECTORS.

In the House of Commons on April 3, Sir F. Powell (Wigan) introduced a Bill, which was read a first time, to amend the law relating to the qualification and tenure of office of medical officers of health, inspectors of nuisances and sanitary inspectors, and to make other relative provisions.

CABLE RATES.

At a meeting of the Imperial Telegraph Communication Committee held at the House of Commons on March 29, Sir Edward Sassoon, who presided, referred to the progress which had been made as the result of the committee's work during the past year, laying special stress upon the fact that the Australian cable rate had been reduced from 4s. 9d. to 3s. 6d. per word, and the South African rate from 5s. to 4s. He also spoke hopefully concerning the prospect of an early reduction to 6d. per word of the rates for messages to America and Canada. The West African rates are next to be attacked.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL.

The provisions of this Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on March 20, apply to all weights and measures, weighing instruments, and measuring instruments manufactured abroad and imported into this kingdom for the use of trade. It seeks to abolish cased weights, and provide for forgeries by removal of stamps from any weight or measure. All weights and measures used in post-offices are made subject to the Weights and Measures Acts. The Board of Trade take power as to the verification, stamping, and inspection of weights and measures, and the appointment of inspectors, also as to granting certificates of merit for appliances and measures of which they approve. In case of difference between owners and inspectors, appeal can be made to the Board. The local inspectors are to be appointed under the local authority, each inspector having his own district. Weights and measures shall be reverified every three years. Further powers dealing with the appointment and duties of inspectors and verification-officers, their qualification, and power to prosecute, and penalties, are provided for. The Weights and Measures Acts of 1878 and 1889 are to be read in common with this enactment, which is backed by Mr. Bousfield, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Kearley, and Sir F. Flannery.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS AMENDMENT.

Mr. Ritchie (Croydon), in the House of Commons on March 28, asked leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Factory and Workshops Acts. He proposed that the Secretary of State should be responsible for making the rules relating to dangerous trades, subject to two conditions—first, that he should be bound to make the fullest inquiries and receive evidence in public, and, secondly, that the rules should lie on the table of both Houses of Parliament for six weeks before they took effect. There was another important modification. He proposed also to apply to laundries the provisions of the Factory Acts preserving the existing distribution of hours. Another important alteration was with reference to laundries. Important sanitary powers are also to be given to the local authority. These remarks showed what the main alterations in the Bill are, and he trusted they might prove satisfactory to the House.

Mr. Asquith expressed his satisfaction at the improvement of Mr. Ritchie's measure over the Bill of last year.

The Bill was then brought in, and read a first time.

COOPERS HILL COLLEGE.

The report of the Board of Visitors, dated March 25, and minutes of evidence taken before them, as to the remodelling of the course of instruction and retirement of certain of the professors and lecturers has been presented to both Houses of Parliament.

The Board of Visitors signing the report are:—Sir Charles H. T. Crosthwaite (Chairman), Sir John Wolfe Barry, F.R.S., Mr. Hugh Leonard, M.I.C.E., Mr. James Mansergh, Sir W. H. Preece, F.R.S., Sir W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., Sir Alexander M. Rendel, Sir Courtenay P. Ilbert. The report gives their opinion in respect to each individual who is under notice to retire. The only one amongst those which interests us is that of Professor Herbert McLeod, F.R.S., which is in the following terms:—

Mr. McLeod is professor of chemistry, and is recognised as an eminent chemist. Our reason for recommending his retirement is that the time now devoted to the teaching of chemistry must be curtailed. In connection with this view Mr. McLeod informed us that he believes that in the curriculum for the Mechanical Science Tripos at Cambridge very little chemistry is included. Inquiries show that twice as much time has hitherto been devoted to chemistry at Cooper's Hill as at the principal technical colleges attached to the University of London. We do not deny that for an engineer a good training in chemistry may be a very useful adjunct, but looking to the time at the disposal of the College authorities in a three-year course, and the quantity of necessary work which the students must get through if they are to qualify as engineers, we consider that they have no time to devote to the acquisition of complete scientific knowledge in branches not essential to their profession. For these reasons we hold that the time given to chemistry must be reduced if physics and electricity are to be properly taught, and that two instructors in chemistry are not needed. For the forest students a course of organic chemistry is required. Mr. McLeod does not wish to undertake that subject, and for that reason, and also for the sake of economy, we recommend his retirement and Dr. Matthews's retention. Mr. McLeod recognises the fitness of Dr. Matthews, who has assured us that the proposed duties are not more than he can satisfactorily perform. We wish to record our opinion that Mr. McLeod by his able and long services has merited every consideration that can be shown to him by the Secretary of State for India in the matter of his retiring pension.

Trade-Marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost 1l., obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," March 6, 1901.)

Device of cactus-plant; for chemical substances. By A. R. Turney, 24 Crutched Friars, E.C. 237,701.

"SASSPERR" (no claim for "Sass"); for medicinal herbal-essence and heverage. By J. H. Jones, 7 South Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. 235,713 and 231,818.

Device of acorn and oak-leaf; for mineral and aerated waters. By A. J. Watts, Southend-on-Sea. 231,915.

"NEUFALINE" and device; for a detergent or cleaning-product. By Charles Buchet et Cie., 16 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C. 231,910.

"KEN-KONA"; for tooth-powder. By Saunders, Fenton, & Saunders, 23 Rochdale Road, Harpurhey, Manchester. 234,948.

"PHELO"; for antiseptic foot-powder. By the City Drug Company, 76 Finsbury Pavement, E.C. 235,193.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," March 13, 1901.)

"CYLVOLEUM" (no claim for "Sylvo"); for chemical substances. By Caspar & Co., 33 King's Road, St. Pancras, N.W. 235,188.

"PETRINE"; for boiler composition. By J. Miles & Co. (Limited), Brentford Bridge. 236,173.

"BORAX" and device of crystals, etc.; for borax. By the Patent Borax Company (Limited), 194 and 196 Ledsam Street, Birmingham. 234,372.

"ALLCOCK'S POROUS PLASTER," and device with eagle; for medicated plasters. By the Allcock Manufacturing Company, 22 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

"ERBESSAL"; for medicines. By J. T. Pattison, Fawley Lodge, George Lane, South Woodford. 235,822.

"THE VINZOE WINE COMPANY," and device; for medicated wine. By the Vinzoe Wine Company, 104 Great Portland Street, W. 235,908.

Device of female figure holding globe; for surgical and curative instruments. By the General Electric Company, 1900 (Limited), 71 Queen Victoria Street, E.C. 236,024.

"SPARKLETS," and wheel device; for glass. By Aerators (Limited), 56 Broad Street Avenue, E.C. 234,888.

"BINCO"; for aerated beverages. By A. G. Bingley & Co., Oakfields Road, West Bridgeford. 234,164.

"BORONIA" and "GOLDEN WATTLE," and floral device; for perfume. By H. P. Truefitt (Limited), 13 and 14 Old Bond Street, W. 233,390, 233,391.

"DOWRY BALM," and device; for a toilet-balm. By Lamb & Co., 132 Kensington High Street, London. 235,200.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," March 20, 1901.)

"DANBOLINE"; for chemical substances. By Holzapfel's Compositions Company (Limited), Quayside, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 236,420.

"HEMOS"; for medicine for pills. By S. Rogers, 1 Crowndale Road, London, N.W. 234,352.

"FRANKLIN" and portrait of Benjamin Franklin; for chemical substances. By P. Densmore, 7 Rue Claude Chahu, Paris. 235,079.

"GLACIOL," (no claim for "Glacio"); for pharmaceutical preparations. By Dr. G. F. Henning, Wilhelmstrasse 141, Berlin. 233,426.

"KAPASTA"; for medicated preparation for external use. By W. & A. Barritt, 164 Charing Cross Road, W.C. 235,924.

"ZUROLALINE"; for medicines. By T. Ward, 21 Totteridge Road, Enfield Wash. 236,170.

"FIRE FLY" and "WANITA"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By Viuolia Company (Limited), Malden Crescent, London, N.W. 231,557, 236,292.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," March 27, 1901.)

Device of pyramid; for stains. By W. H. Staynes, Belgrave Gate, Leicester. 234,360.

"CASITE" (no claim for "Caso"); for chemical preparation. By A. R. Atkey, Trent Street, Nottingham. 235,445.

"OSIRIS" and devices; for chemical substances. By H. Schuroff, 17 St. Paul's Square, Birmingham. 236,337.

"ZIMYAH"; for veterinary salve for horses' hoofs. By J. G. Smith, Green House, Ballyclare, Belfast. 235,883.

"OINTINA" (no claim for "Oint"); for ointment. By Edith L. Macrae, Portland House, Challoner Street, W. Kensington, W. 232,435.

"LUCKO"; for goods in Class 3. By R. Haynel and G. Barella, 69 Buckingham Road, Brighton. 234,868.

"KRYPTO"; for chemical substances. By the Astral Medicine Company, 63 Mere Road, Leicester. 236,401.

"BONNINGTON'S IRISH MOSS"; signature and device. By George Bonnington, 199 High Street, Christchurch, New Zealand. 235,711.

"ALEXO"; for tungssten. By Albright & Wilson (Limited), Trinity Street, Oldbury, Birmingham. 236,042.

"SENTRY"; for water-filters. By Barnett & Foster, 26 Eagle Wharf Road, Shoreditch, E.C. 238,366.

"STAR BRAND" and device; for flavouring essences. By A. Boake, Roberts & Co. (Limited), 100 Carpenter's Road, Stratford, E. 234,540.

"WANDA" and device; for flavouring essences. By J. & G. Cox (Limited), Gorgie Mills, Edinburgh. 234,972.

"IVO"; for mineral waters. By H. Wadsworth, Manor House, Bridge Street, St. Ives, Hunts. 236,065.

Device of crossed flags; for perfumed soap. By J. Crosfield & Sons (Limited), Bank Quay, Warrington. 233,959.

"EAU DE COLOGNE, No. 89," and devices; for eau de Cologne. By F. Schutze & Co., 89 Southwark Street, London, S.E. 229,002.

"JAPHINA"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By J. Travers & Sons (Limited), 119 Cannon Street, London. 236,083.

"VYLNE"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By F. A. Lester, 7 Victoria Villas, Upperthorpe, Sheffield. 236,362.

"ST. JULIAN"; for soap in Class 50. By Edward Cook & Co. (Limited), East London Soap-works, Bow, E. 236,356.

Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

MR. J. P. GAMBLING, chemist and druggist, Sheffield, has disposed of his business.

MR. H. PAYNE, chemist, has purchased the business of Messrs. Rowe & Co., 16 Lime Road, Rotherhithe.

THE family of the late Mr. D. O. Simpson, chemist and druggist, Heanor, Derby, are giving up the business.

MESSRS. WESTERN & Co. have purchased Messrs. Barry, Phillips & Co.'s chemist's business at 78 Broadway, Ealing, W.

DAY'S METROPOLITAN DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) are opening branch pharmacies at Folkestone and at Mercery Lane, Canterbury.

THE TIMOTHY WHITE COMPANY, of Portsmouth and elsewhere, are fitting-up a chemist's business at Church Street, Weybridge, Surrey.

THE SOUTH COAST DRUG COMPANY, with Mr. W. E. Hall, chemist and druggist, as manager, will shortly open a pharmacy in London Road, Dover.

MR. A. W. COX, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business at Temple Gate, Bristol, which belonged to the executors of the late Mr. John Evans.

MESSRS. BAYLEY & Co., perfumers, 94 St. Martin's Lane Charing Cross, W.C., intimate that they have taken Mr. Frank Floor Dadfield into partnership.

MR. DAVID N. FULLERTON, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business lately carried on by Mr. J. G. Wallbridge at 68 Church Street, St. Helens.

MR. ALBERT E. BLACK, chemist and druggist, lately managing partner for Messrs. Deacon & Co., chemists, Beckenham, has bought the business lately carried on by Mr. C. H. Mitchell Parker at Crouch End Hill, Crouch End, N.

MR. J. E. WHITAKER, chemist and druggist, lately with Messrs. Reynolds & Branson (Limited), pharmaceutical chemists, Leeds, has purchased the pharmacy formerly occupied by Mr. B. P. Haley, pharmaceutical chemist, at 23 Gordon Terrace, Saltaire, Bradford.

Marriages.

BARCLAY—HASLAM.—On March 29, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, by the Rev. Canon Henson, John, eldest son of Thomas Barclay, J.P., pharmaceutical chemist, of The Uplands, Blackwell, and Birmingham, to Winifrid St. Barbe, only daughter of F. W. Haslam, Professor of Classics, University of New Zealand, and granddaughter of the late Colonel St. Barbe Browne, 12th Regt. B.N.I.

NEEVES—HUTTON.—On March 28, at St. Peter's Church, Leicester, by the Rev. G. L. Richardson, William H. J. Neeves to Gertrude Carrie, eldest daughter of Mr. R. H. Hutton, chemist, Leicester.

Deaths.

ALEXANDER.—At 12 Hartington Gardens, Edinburgh, on March 27, Catherine Murray, wife of Mr. H. D. Alexander, chemist and druggist, Lauriston Place.

BRENTNALL.—At Eston (Yorks), on March 2, Mr. Joseph Edmund Brentnall, chemist and druggist. Aged 76.

FREEMAN.—On March 7, Mr. Robert Freeman, chemist and druggist, Croydon. Aged 82.

HENLEY.—At Lyme Regis, on March 21, Mr. Henry Henley, chemist and druggist. Aged 81.

MANTELL.—On March 26, at 23 Balsall Hall Road, Birmingham, Mr. Charles Mantell, chemist and druggist. Aged 52.

Personalities.

SIR WM. SELBY CHURCH, M.D., has been re-elected President of the Royal College of Physicians of London by a practically unanimous vote.

DR. J. J. SUDBOROUGH, formerly a student of Mason College and pupil of King's Edward's Grammar School, Camp Hill, Birmingham, has been elected to the chair of chemistry at the University College, Aberystwith.

ON March 28 Bro. C. J. Wain, pharmaceutical chemist, Newcastle-under-Lyme, who for six years had occupied the position of Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters, was presented with an oak quarter-chime clock by his brethren. The chair was occupied by Bro. D. H. Oxen, chemist and druggist, who is the present Chief Ranger.

MR. JAMES HAWKE DENNIS, late of the firm of J. H. Dennis & Co., chemical-merchants, Liverpool, has given 13,000*l.* for the building of the central tower of Truro Cathedral, and a further sum of 8,000*l.* for a new peal of bells, a set of chimes, and an organ for the Old Priory Church of St. Buryan, in West Cornwall. Mr. Dennis is a Cornishman by birth.

It will be observed from the *Gazette* notice which we reprint on page 556 that Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire, pharmaceutical chemist, has been appointed by King Edward VII.



MR P. W. SQUIRE, F.C.S. F.L.S.

chemist and druggist to his Majesty's household. This is an office which was created by the late Queen Victoria, who before her accession to the throne had, on the advice of her physician, Sir James Clarke, M.D., appointed Mr. Peter Squire as her chemist and druggist, to perform the duties which up to that time had fallen to apothecaries. On her accession the Queen added her chemist and druggist to the medical staff of her predecessors. Mr. Peter Squire fulfilled in his own person the duties of his office (which is a salaried appointment distinct from that of warrant-holders), and in process of time his sons, Mr. Peter Wyatt Squire and Mr. Alfred Herbert Squire, were associated with him in the office. The premature death of Mr. A. H. Squire a few years ago left the appointment in the hands of Mr. P. W. Squire, and the King has naturally reappointed him, for Mr. Squire had been chemist to the Prince of Wales for many years. The reappointment is, we consider, more than a personal

honour, for it must be a gratification to all pharmacists to observe that the King has retained the direct representative of pharmacy upon it. Mr. P. W. Squire is worthy of the honour, for he is an all-round pharmacist, versed in every detail of the craft, and as modest as they make them. He is an old Square student, his Major diploma is dated July 18, 1866, and he was for several years a member of the Pharmaceutical Council. He is an athlete and sportsman—golf, punting, shooting, and tennis being his greater strengths in these directions. In Court functions he dons the Jubilee silver medal, which he received from the Queen as a member of her household.

Scientific Progress.

Phenol Colour-reactions.—Mr. Alfred C. Chapman (*Chem. Ztg.*, xxiv, p. 376) reports that certain isomeric allyl- and propenyl-phenols yield various colour-reactions on dissolving 1 c.c. of the phenol in 5 c.c. of acetic anhydride and adding either a small quantity of solution of zinc chloride or concentrated sulphuric acid. The following are some of the reactions:

Phenol.	With H ₂ SO ₄ .	With ZnCl ₂ .
Eugenol ...	At first brown, rapidly changing to purple, and finally wine-red.	Pale-yellow, disappearing on standing.
Iso-eugenol	Rose red, rapidly becoming light-brown.	Distinct rose red.
Saffrol ...	Emerald-green, changing to brownish-green, and finally brownish.	Pale-blue, fading on standing, finally light-brown.
Iso-saffrol...	Pale-pink, becoming reddish on standing.	Pink, becoming brownish-red, and finally brown.
Estragol ...	Purple, then indigo-blue, and finally bluish-purple.	Bluish-violet to indigo-blue, and finally brownish.
Anethol] ...	At first no colour, then pale yellow after a short time.	Pale-yellow, becoming darker, and finally brick-red.

Chloroform in Crystals.—A few cases of chloroform-crystallisation are known, but as they are not very many, every new example is a matter of some interest. According to Kassner (*Archiv der Pharmazie*, 1901, 44) the crystalline body isolated by Schmidt from *Lepraria latebrarum*, and called by him leprarin, can be obtained with one molecule of chloroform of crystallisation. When the plant is extracted with chloroform, leprarin is extracted together with the less soluble coccellic acid; the latter separates first on account of its slight solubility, and the leprarin can be obtained in a state of purity by evaporating the chloroform, and repeatedly treating the residue with alcohol and ether. When so purified it forms colourless glancing leaflets melting at 155°. Leprarin has the formula C₁₉H₁₈O₉, which is not the formula originally assigned to it by its discoverer, Schmidt, who appears to have failed to allow for the presence of chloroform when calculating his results.

College Notes.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy (Limited), which was postponed in consequence of the death of Queen Victoria, has been fixed for Tuesday, May 14, at the Holborn Restaurant. Mr. G. Hay-Morgan, B.Sc. (Barrister-at-Law), will preside.

METROPOLITAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.—At the recent sessional examinations held at this College the following gentlemen were successful in carrying off the medals:—Mr. F. Trembath (silver medallist), Mr. Wm. McBryde (bronze medal in dispensing), Mr. Edwin Poole (bronze medals in chemistry), Mr. L. N. Hensman (bronze medal in pharmacy, botany, and materia medica). We are indebted to Mr. Watson Will (Principal of the College) for copies of the papers set, which show that the examinations were above the Minor standard.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Oleum Amygdalæ.

SIR,—I cannot do other than assume from the context that "the firm of wholesale druggists supposed to be at the very top of the tree" mentioned by Dr. McWalter in your last issue refers to my company. I thank him for the supposition, and trust that it may be of general acceptance and, above all, merited. I think, however, that my versatile friend in commenting on my publication and my company's labels, has overlooked some of the bearings of the matter. The actual wording of the labels to which he takes exception is as under:—

OL. AMYGD. EXPRESS.	OL. AMYGD. EXPRESS.
ALMOND OIL.	(PEACH ^{AND} OR APRICOT KERNEL OIL).
Pressed in England from Amygdalus Communis.	Pressed in England.
WRIGHT, LAYMAN & UMNEY (LIMITED), SOUTHWARK, LONDON.	WRIGHT, LAYMAN & UMNEY (LIMITED), SOUTHWARK, LONDON.

If Dr. McWalter will kindly refer to the papers by Mr. Swinton and myself (British Pharmaceutical Conference, 1899), and by Messrs. Allen and Brewis (B.P. Conference, 1900), as well as the subsequent discussions, he will see a complete statement with regard to the whole subject. The two oils have for many years been sold under the titles of Oleum Amygdalæ Ang. and Oleum Amygdalæ Exot., the latter being the expressed oil of peach or apricot kernels—first only pressed abroad, but more recently prepared on a large scale in this country. I have thought it better to actually describe the latter oil as pressed from "peach and/or apricot kernels," rather than give it the misnomer Oleum Amygdalæ Exot. A consideration of the very close botanical association of the almond, peach, and apricot will, I think, show Dr. McWalter that there is no parallel in such a case as he satirically suggests:—

OLEUM OLIVÆ OPT.

Expressed in the U.S.A. from cotton-seeds and/or rape-seeds.

I am sorry to have encroached upon your valuable space for explaining and, I hope, justifying descriptions that have been, I think, publicly approved by the utterances of such authorities as Mr. E. M. Holmes and Mr. Allen.

Yours faithfully,

Southwark Street, S.E., April 2. JOHN C. UMNEY.

SIR,—In his remarks in your issue of March 30, page 534, on oleum amygdalæ, Dr. McWalter seems to have forgotten the discussion that took place on this subject at the meeting of the Pharmaceutical Conference last year, or could not have closely followed it, or have perused the *Year-book of Pharmacy* for 1900. If he had, he would surely have understood that for the last twenty years or more oil expressed from peach or apricot kernels, sometimes separately, sometimes from a mixture of the two (when they come into commerce in a mixed state), has figured in price-lists as "ol. amygdal. exot." and has been offered at a lower price than the true almond oil, but that until recently no explanation was given in price-lists of the source of the oil, so that many retail chemists might naturally have supposed that it was cheaper because expressed on the Continent. Is it not more honest and straightforward on the part of the wholesale dealer to state definitely what the article he sells really is, than to lead buyers to suppose by inference that it may be genuine oil expressed where labour is cheaper? Of late years oleum amygdalæ expressed in France has been offered

in this country very much adulterated with cottonseed, rape, and other oils (as mentioned at the Conference last year) at a price so low that English oil honestly pressed from peach and apricot kernels could not possibly compete with it; it has therefore become necessary to use the words "ang." or "expressed in England" to distinguish the unadulterated oil expressed in this country. It is also necessary to qualify the words "peach" and "apricot" by the alternative "or," because, as pointed out in the *Year-book of Pharmacy*, the peach-kernel oil reacts like almond oil, differing from it chiefly in being more limpid and in not keeping so well, whilst the apricot oil has a distinguishing reaction that enables it to be easily recognised by chemical tests. It is not always possible to get unmixed kernels in commerce, and therefore it is necessary to use the word "or" as well as "and," as two qualities of oil are mentioned in the price-list in which I find the words quoted by Dr. McWalter viz., one as "ol. amygdal. ang.," and the other as "ol. amygdal. ang. expressed in England from peach and/or apricot-kernels," there is no false impression conveyed to the purchaser, and any firm which could pass off peach-kernel oil as almond oil without much fear of detection, and does not do so, seems to me to deserve the confidence of the purchaser, rather than firms which leave him in ignorance of what he is buying, and content themselves with the motto "*Caveat emptor.*" The action of the firm he quotes seems to me to carry out the spirit of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts just as much as that of the grocer who labels his cheap coffee "This is a mixture of coffee and chicory."

E. M. HOLMES.

What Mr. Gifford would do.

SIR,—“Xrayser” professes curiosity as to how I would legislate with reference to the anomalies which circumscribe qualified chemists. When the Companies Bill was under discussion I stated repeatedly that consistency demanded that we should claim inclusion in Clause 3, or we had no reason for absolute objection to Clause 2. This is the basis of any legislative action we can rightly take—we claim a personal qualification. “Xrayser” says he will secure this, whilst Mr. Harrison declares the Council has “capitulated”—i.e. surrendered. Regulation of companies destroys the principle of personal qualification, and virtually repeals the Act of 1838. This statement may be confused, but it cannot be controverted. It follows, therefore, that sound policy directs working in connection with the medical profession. Their policy is to get legal enactment to what was Clause 3 of the Companies Bill. Ours ought to be the same. It is a practical policy, it is rational, and it is consistent.

Yours faithfully,

Blackburn, April 1.

R. LORD GIFFORD.

Fundamentals.

SIR,—There is nothing whatever vague or inconsistent about my position, or about my statement regarding it, as Mr. Gifford would lead your readers to believe. I would not remark further on the matter were it not that Mr. Gifford, and the North-East Lancashire brigade, are likely to seriously hamper reformers in the pharmaceutical field. As it appears that Mr. Gifford will not reconsider his position, I think it fair to call on chemists throughout North-East Lancashire to reconsider theirs. It is now perfectly hopeless to try to stop so called drug stores (Limited) right away, and the longer we delay in placing on them such restrictions as are possible, the further we will drift from the end we have in view, i.e. that of eliminating the unqualified element from them by forcing in the qualified man. If Mr. Gifford would only look around, he would see that a large number of the best known pharmacists in the country have availed themselves of the Limited Liability Act, and some of these have told me that any effort to eliminate this principle from pharmacy would meet with their opposition. In short Parliament will not stop Limited Companyism in Pharmacy, nor would pharmacy be at all unanimous in asking that it be stopped. Everybody at all conversant with the subject sees this except Mr. Gifford, and how he fails to see it is quite beyond my comprehension. There is no incompatibility between Mr. Wootton's position and mine. We are quite agreed as to the principle involved in Section I of the Pharmacy Act, and we are also in harmony, in thinking, that this principle can only be carried out by forcing on public

companies qualified directors and managers. This appears to be "Xrayser's" position too, and I find that in place of agreeing with Mr. Gifford he is in the same boat with myself. I am as strongly of opinion as any man that the man who keeps open shop must be qualified, but in the case of companies we must consider that the directors and managers are the parties keeping open shop, as Parliament will not touch those who supply the cash *i.e.* shareholders.

Dumfries, April 1.

JAMES REID.

The Pharmacy Bill.

Does the Bill in its present form provide a reasonable and practical solution of the drug-trade difficulties?

SIR,—In discussing the provisions of the Bill promoted by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, I do so not in a spirit of antagonism, but of sympathy with its intention. I think the trade owes a debt of gratitude to that body. Regarded from a trade standard merely it may be a very desirable measure; but the trade can only propose, it is for Parliament to dispose; and it may be that what the members of the trade consider a fair and reasonable protection of their interest the Legislature may regard as an attempt to create an unhealthy trade monopoly, not just to a considerable body of the public, who although not "registered persons" are still citizens, having rights equally with chemists. Since the passing of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, there has undoubtedly grown up a large amount of trading which is unfair to the chemist and illegitimate in itself; but it is also clear that much of this trading is owing to commissions from the Poisons and other Acts. Army and Navy and Civil Service Stores, limited companies, and private individuals have in all parts of the country invested capital in this class of business, and many employes are engaged in it, and if worked within the four corners of the Pharmacy Acts they have a legal right so to do. One of the chief aims of the proposed Bill is to make such trading impossible, and incidentally to take away the employment of persons so engaged. If this be not its object, why are the various clauses so drafted? And if not, what purpose will it serve? If the facts are as stated, is it probable that Parliament will consider such proposals reasonable and equitable as between trader and trader? I go further, and ask, Is the Bill a practical solution of the question even from the chemist's standpoint?

I take it, as a sound principle, that it is dishonest to ask Parliament to place upon the Statute Books laws which it is well-nigh impossible to keep either in letter or spirit. It is all very well to pass penal enactments for the punishment of offenders, but if by so doing you make it impossible for honest men to live and remain honest, the remedy is worse than the disease. The proposed Bill not only deals with the "sale of poisons," but prohibits "the retailing, dispensing, or compounding of medical prescriptions" by any person other than a "registered person." The word "supervision" (Clause 2) clearly purports that the "sale of any poison, or the retailing, dispensing, or compounding of any medical prescription" shall only be lawful either by or in the actual presence of a "qualified person." There are poisons and poisons, and prescriptions and prescriptions; but the proposed Bill draws no distinction between prussic acid and fly-papers, strychnine and chlorodyne lozenges, or in prescriptions for *lin. aconiti* and *pulv. rhei* &c., and an offender, however technical or trivial the offence, becomes liable to a penalty of 5*l.* without power of reduction by the Court.

The Pharmaceutical Council may say there will not be police prosecutions, but prosecutions by the Society, and therefore the trade need not be afraid that it will be harassed; but if cases are reported to the Registrar, does the Council propose, upon a question dealing with the public safety, to delegate to itself the powers of judge and jury, magistrates, and police? I take it that, if Parliament grants the powers, it will also impose upon the Council the duty of prosecuting where and whenever it is brought to its knowledge that persons are breaking the law, exactly as in the case of the police.

Again, how will the Bill work in the every-day drug-trade? I submit that it is a physical impossibility for any chemist to be actually in his shop for twelve or thirteen hours a day from January 1 to December 31; but unless every chemist can afford to keep a "registered person" to assist

him, he must either knowingly and persistently break a law to which he has subscribed, or the moment he leaves his shop he must put up a notice, "No poisons sold or prescriptions dispensed till Mr. Pestle returns." This descent from the sublime to the ridiculous is not the fault of the man who comes down the stairs: it is the fault of the builder who leaves no other exit.

There are about 15,000 chemists at present in business in the United Kingdom. I have no data as to how many employ "qualified men," but should suppose if it is put at 4,000 it will be a very liberal allowance, leaving over 10,000 who have no such help, and who, therefore, cannot possibly work their businesses strictly in conformity with the provisions of the Bill. In this respect every chemist will be in exactly the same legal position as the members of the Pharmaceutical Council, and I should like to ask, with all respect, if there is a single member of that body who is always present in his shop when poisons are sold or medical prescriptions dispensed? I trow not, or the meetings and festivals of the Society would be but sparsely attended.

Where is the supply of "qualified" assistance to come from? I suppose there are never more than 200 "qualified persons" of good character available at any given time, therefore the conditions cannot be complied with. What then is possible? or is anything possible? If the Council will, while seeking to improve the condition and status of chemists, have due regard to present conditions and circumstances, as their predecessors had when they proposed that all men in business at the passing of the Act of 1868 should have the right to be registered without examination, then time will work its own remedy; but any attempt to reform abuses by pains and penalties usually make "confusion worse confounded." Let the proposals be rather prospective than retrospective in their application, and probably nearly all opposition will fall to the ground, at all events, much reasonable opposition will lose its force.

Yours, &c.,

W. R. MAUD.

Pontefract, April 2.

[Considerations of space have compelled us to abbreviate Mr. Maud's letter somewhat, in order to insert it this week. In one passage he suggests verbal alterations in Clause 2 which would carry out the principles which he advocates.—EDITOR.]

Strychnine and Fowls.

SIR,—In your issue for March 30, page 508, you quote an interesting fact related by Mr. A. J. L. Eckersley, which seems to contradict my statement in the *C. & D.*, December 15, 1900, page 972, regarding the alleged insusceptibility of fowls to the action of strychnine. There is abundant testimony for the truth of my statements; but the researches of F. A. Falck, quoted by Dr. Wynter Blyth in his important work, "Poisons: Their Effects and Detection" (1895, p. 326), throw so valuable a light on the matter that I venture to trouble you with the following quotation:—"Operating on fowls, he found that strychnine taken into the crop in the ordinary way was very uncertain; 50 milligrammes per kilo. taken with the food had no effect, but results always followed if the poison was introduced into the circulation by the subcutaneous needle, the lethal dose for fowls being, under those circumstances, 1 to 2 milligrammes per kilo." Mr. Eckersley's contribution to the discussion is important in its bearing on Falck's statement on the uncertainty of the action of the poison on fowls. Dr. Blyth calls attention to the fact that Dr. Warner died after taking only 32 milligrammes ($\frac{1}{2}$ gr.) of strychnine sulphate, whilst Falck found that his fowls sustained no ill effects from taking 50 milligrammes per kilo.!

I am, Sir, yours &c.

March 29. EDWARD BERDOE, L.R.C.P. Ed., M.R.C.S.

The Shops (Early Closing) Bill.

SIR,—In your current issue your contributor "Xrayser," whose "Observations and Reflections" are generally interesting and not infrequently amusing, girds at the Western Chemists of London because they happen to disagree with his own opinions on the subject of Lord Avebury's Early-closing Bill. In my humble opinion the principle of the whole Bill is objectionable; it is monstrous that in the twentieth century there should be such an attempt at grandmotherly legislation and interference with individual liberty, worthy of the days of the curfew, as to make a certain hour

the compulsory time of closing. It is the proposed compulsion that is objectionable, and I am glad to think that, not only in London, but in many other places "the necessary majority would not be obtained." Early closing, however desirable in itself—and I should be the last to deprecate it—should not be imposed, even on a minority of one-third because the other two-thirds agree to it, in any trade or calling; while any attempt to include the pharmacist in the same category as the publican, in making it illegal to supply their *clientèle* after a certain prescribed time should, I think, be resisted to the utmost. [Publicans are excluded from the Bill.—EDITOR.] I am not interested in upholding late closing; three neighbouring chemists within 150 yards of me do not close until from one to three hours after I do still, I have no desire to force my opinions on them, and should certainly object to theirs being forced on me. "Xrayser" should remember that even "an insignificant minority" have rights, and to characterise their opinions, which are in all probability as honest as those of himself, as "greediness or whims" is as unjust as it is uncalled for.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

March 30. A WESTERN CHEMIST. (119/26)

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

117/21. *F. & Co.*—It is contrary to our rule to reply by post. There is no rule without its exceptions; but in this case there is no exception. You might have written on a reply-postcard. We do not grudge the $\frac{3}{4}$ d. (this reply costs more), but we have respect for principle.

84/33. *Spero.*—(1) **Foot-rot Paste.**—The following formula from "Veterinary Counter-practice" has been found to be excellent:—

Cupri sulph. ...	...	...	...	3iv.
Ferri sesquioxid.	...	...	...	3iv.
Ac. acet. glac.	...	...	...	3iij.
Glycerin.	...	...	...	3j.
Ol. lini.	...	...	...	q.s. ut ft. pasta

(2) **Lawn-sand.**—Use for this a mixture of fine dry sand 2 parts with acid sulphate of potash 1 part. Common salt is sometimes used in place of the potash salt.

78/57. *N. L. D.*—**Healing - ointment.**—"Excellent for abscesses, piles, and burns."—A mixture of emp. plumbi (2), emp. ferri (1), and lard (2) gives an ointment like your sample.

104/62. *Drysalter*.—Hearth-stones are made in a brick-baking machine. The ingredients—porcelain clay, yellow ochre, prussian blue, or venetian red—are ground together, sifted, and made into a stiff paste with water.

108/22. *Drysalter*. — Water is necessary to produce acetylene from calcium carbide. Perhaps you are thinking of the use of calcium phosphide in acetylene torches.

93/55. *Cyclist*.—The charge for Valuing a Business is either a commission or lump sum. The commission charge is 5 per cent. on the first 100£, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on any additional amount, and, if in the country, the valuers' expenses. Any valuer will give an estimate if you prefer to pay a lump sum.

80/61. *C. J. E.*—Saffranine gives a pretty pink to pomade. If you want an aniline yellow the best for the purpose is Whitlock's oil soluble orange (James Whitlock, Stone Bridge Chemical-works, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs).

80/9. *B. & B.—Fly-gum.*—Analysis does not give much clue to the composition of your sample. The only fact we could adduce was that it has a linseed-oil basis. Have you tried the recipe given in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 332?

107/60. *Cream*.—**Essence of Vanilla**.—Chop up 1 cz. of vanilla, add 1 gr. of powdered musk and 5 gr. of potassium

carbonate. Put into an infusion-jug and pour upon it 4 oz. of boiling water, stir, and allow to stand till quite cold; then add 16 oz. of rectified spirit, macerate for four days, and filter.

107/14. *Sachet*.—The perfume of the sample of sachet-powder you send is due to oils of lavender and citronella. It is, of course, quite impossible to analyse the powder.

106/20. *Tepid*.—The ammonium chloride in the neuralgia-powders is the cause of them going damp. You cannot prevent it, but can check it by wrapping the powders in waxed paper or tinfoil

92/56. *Witchhazel*.—Witch-hazel Cream :—

Crem. amygd.	...	...	...	3viii.
Ol. amygd. dulc.	...	...	...	3iv.
Glycerini	...	...	...	3x.
Ol. geranii	...	...	...	η 30
Ol. lavand.	...	...	...	η 30
Liq. hamamelidis	...	...	...	3iv.

Rub the almond cream in a mortar till pliable, add the mixed almond, geranium, and lavender oils a little at a time, then the glycerin, and lastly the distilled witch hazel.

82/24. *Galtriv*.—(1) Government Chemists.—Particulars are given in the Educational Number of the *C. & D.*, 1900 (September 8, page 436) of the pay of Government chemists, and it is stated where other information can be obtained. (2) Being a "strict teetotaler" does not, as far as we are aware, have any influence either for good or evil on progress in the Inland Revenue service, except in so far as a steady man is better able to take advantage of opportunities and do things better than one who is not.

83/26. *Chiropod.*—There is no book published on chiropody.

55/43. *Corns*.—See reply to "Chiropod" (82/26).

120/1. *S. F. G.*—"Diseases and Remedies" is the book you require. We publish it at 2s. 6d., by post 2s. 9d.

101/36. *An Old Subscriber.*—**Hæmorrhoids.**—The first essential is to regulate the bowels, so that the motions may never be hard. When the piles are exceptionally troublesome use one of the following suppositories morning and evening :—

Pulv. gallæ	...	...	...	...	3ss.
Ergotin.	...	...	...	...	gr. xij.
Ext. belladonnæ	...	...	...	...	gr. iij.
Adipis lanæ	...	...	...	...	ʒi.

Mix, and add to the following, previously melted on a water-bath:—

Ol. theobromatis	...	...	...	3iss.
Ceræ flavæ	...	...	...	3ss.

Divide into twelve suppositories.

117/37. *Zeta*.—It would be mere conjecture for us to say whether or not a sulphur offered at 8s. or 9s. per cwt. is pure. See Proctor's "Manual of Pharmaceutical Testing" (*C. & D.* office 2s. 6d. or 2s. 9d. by post) for the simplest methods of testing.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

117/54. Christmas crackers supplied on sale or return.

170/21. Makers of dionine lozenges (not tablets).

118/4. The publishers of "Alpine Flora" on thin paper.

115/61. Makers of capping-machines for small perfume-bottles.

117/33. Address of maker of Ford's mothers' friend—a
nit-ointment.

118/38. Makers of metallic tooth-stopping the colour of zinc, or cheapest kind.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: April 3.

BUSINESS on the drug and produce markets is slackening down in anticipation of the holidays, and there is little news to report. There have been a few minor changes in values, included among which is another $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. advance in German refined camphor. Cocoa-butter met with a decline in auction owing to the excessive supply. Cod-liver oil is offering at lower rates, although reports as to prospects are conflicting. In chemicals, chlorate of potash is easier, and sulphate of copper is materially lower owing to lack of spring demand and American competition; arsenic is also easier. Cream of tartar, tartaric and citric acids are all unchanged, although the tendency of the latter is perhaps easier. Balsam copaiba is very firm, Maranhão being scarce. A large speculative business was done in quinine immediately after the Amsterdam-bark sales, but this week no business of importance has transpired, and prices are easier again. The following table shows the principal alterations of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Camphor (Germ. ref.)	Ginger (Cochin)	Canary seed	Cocoa-butter
Colchicum-seed	Lime-juice	Caraway-seed	Copper sulphate
	Oil, pepper-mint (HGH)		Oil, cod liver
	Pepper		Oil, cubeb
			Oil, nutmeg
			Potash
			chlora'e
			Sugar-of-milk

Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from March 27 to April 3 (both days inclusive):—Acid, citric (Sicil.), 40; tartaric, (@ Bari) 88, (@ Rotterdam) 30; arrowroot (St. V.), 281; belladonna root, 11; benzoin, (@ Singapore) 139, (@ Penang); 83 bleaching-powder, (@ Antwerp) 209, (@ Hamburg) 101; camphor oil, 109; cardamoms, 13; caraway-seed, 100; casoara sagrada, 584; castor oil (Belg.), 22; (E.I.), 342 cs., 39 csks.; chaulmoogra oil, 3; cinchona, (@ Lisbon) 122, (@ Calicut) 611, (@ Mollendo) 146, (@ Amsterdam) 473; cocoa-butter, 341; cocaine (crude), 5; cod-liver oil, (@ St. John, N.F.) 556 csks., (@ Hamburg) 25; cream of tartar, 58; drugs, (@ Cartagena) 39 pkgs., (@ Panama) 12 bls., (@ Trieste) 142 pkgs., (@ Fiume) 27 pkgs., (@ New York) 177 pkgs.; eucalyptus oil (Aust.), 959; galls, (@ Busreh) 738, 1,059 *in transit*; ginger, (Jam.) 908 pkgs., (@ Hong-Kong) 400 csks. 258 bxs., (@ Calicut) 55, (@ W.C.A.) 622 bgs.; gum arabic (@ Alexandria), 27; gum, unenumerated (@ Bushire), 128 cs. *in transit*; honey (Aust.) 10, (Chil.) 193, (Calif.) 190; insect-flowers (@ Trieste), 11; jalap (@ Vera Cruz), 12; leaves, medicinal (@ Madras), 57; lemon-grass oil (@ Cochin), 150 cs.; lime, citrate of, 144 csks.; lime-juice (W.I.), 13; lime oil (W.I.), 6; liquorice-juice (@ Bari), 53 cs.; oils, essential (@ Messina), 13 pkgs.; opium, (@ Smyrna) 25, (@ Bushire) 30; orange-peel (@ Malaga), 10; otto of rose, 6 cs.; peppermint oil, (@ Hamburg) 20, (@ N.Y.) 16; potash chlorate, 226 kegs; potash prussiate, 30; quebracho-extract, 300 bags; roots (@ Trieste), 17; senna (@ Madras), 36 bgs.; shellac, 2,384; button ditto, 294; tamarinds (Antigua), 395; wax, bees' (Mogador) 152, (Calif.) 11, (E.I.) 28, (Chil.) 14, (@ Dusseldorf) 19.

Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market centres other than London.]

There is little apparent change in the general condition of the heavy-chemical market. General business, especially on home account, although perhaps showing a slight improvement, cannot really be described as being anything but dull. Export business, as is usual at this time of the year, is beginning to increase, and on the Tyne particularly works are busier in this respect. Stocks, therefore, which have latterly inclined towards the heavy side, are likely to be soon reduced.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—In this branch values are fairly well maintained at combination rates. Main products, however, comparatively speaking, are only in very moderate request.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—Business passing is by no means heavy, and a further decline in prices is to be recorded from quotations last given. Tone also continues weak.

COAL-TAR PRODUCTS are very quiet all round. Benzols have declined, and 90 per cent. now stand at $10\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 50 per cent. at 10 d.

GREEN COPPERAS continues in brisk request, and is a trifle scarce; quotations are firmly maintained at 42s. to 44s. per ton for best Lancashire makes, f.o.b. Liverpool; and Welsh, 13s. to 14s. per ton in bulk, free on rails.

BROWN ACETATE OF LIME is not moving so well, and price has dropped a little, value now being about 5l. 10s. to 5l. 15s. per ton and fairly steady thereat.

Liverpool Drug Market.

Liverpool, April 2.

CASTOR OIL.—The firmness which has marked good seconds Calcutta for some weeks past is fully maintained, and though the arrival by the *Logician* caused the value to drop to 4d. it has recovered to $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., which has been paid. Holders talk of reverting to $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. in a day or two. First pressure French is not quotably changed, $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. being the price asked by holders.

CHILLIES, SIERRA LEONE.—Twenty-five bags bright red new crop have been sold at 47s. 6d. per cwt.

GRAINS OF PARADISE continue in very small supply, and 100s. per cwt. is still asked.

HONEY.—Chilian of the new crop is beginning to arrive, but at auction no bids were forthcoming. Brokers' limits were:—Pile 1, 27s.; Pile 2, 26s.; Pile 3, 21s.; no pile, 22s. per cwt. Californian continues to be held at prices ranging from 42s. 6d. to 51s. per cwt., according to quality.

LINSEED.—At the moment the market is dull and inactive, but 47s. 6d. per quarter is still asked for River Plate.

TURPS.—Steady at 27s. 6d. per cwt.

QUILLATA.—13l. 10s. is still asked by importers, but the volume of business passing is small.

GINGER, AFRICAN.—28s. 6d. per cwt. is the value still ruling for new crop.

BEESSWAX.—Chilian remains steady at 7l. 7s. 6d. to 7l. 10s. per cwt. for mixed grey to yellow.

German Drug Market.

Hamburg, April 1.

Our drug-market in general is quiet, and only a very few articles are of interest to buyers at the moment.

ALOES.—Cape is unchanged at 55m. per 100 kilos.

BALSAM PERU is tending firmer. To-day's quotation is 12m. per kilo.

CAMPHOR.—Refined was raised 5m. per 100 kilos. by the refiners last Thursday. Second-hand holders ask 457m. per 100 kilos. to-day.

CONDURANGO is decidedly firmer, and held for 100m. per 100 kilos.

CEVADILLA SEED is unchanged at 85m. per 100 kilos.

CUMIN-SEED.—Maltese is quieter at 63m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT is quiet. Russian can be had at 425m. per 100 kilos.

IPCACUANHA.—Rio keeps firm at 28m. per kilo., while holders of Cartagena are willing to sell at $15\frac{1}{2}$ m. per kilo., which is cheaper.

ANISE.—Russian is quieter at 33m. per 100 kilos.

KOLA is steady at 45m. per 100 kilos.

LYCOPodium is rather quieter, and prices favour buyers; 425m. per 100 kilos. is quoted.

QUININE is firm at 45m. per kilo.

QUILLATA is dearer at 29m. to 30m. per 100 kilos.

STAR-ANISE is lower again, with sellers at 125m. per 100 kilos. for spot delivery.

SENEGA is quiet and easier at 375m. per 100 kilos.

JAPANESE WAX is firmly held at 62m. per 100 kilos.

COD-LIVER OIL is unchanged at 70m. per barrel. Linseed tending lower.

CASTOR OIL, for spot delivery, is firm and scarce, at 63m. to 64m. per 100 kilos. for first pressing in barrels.

PEPPERMINT OIL is firm, at 5.70m. per lb. for HGH, and Japanese ditto 8m. per kilo.

Cablegrams.

HAMBURG, April 3, 2 P.M.:—German refiners have advanced their prices 5m. per 100 kilos.; 470m. is now quoted in second-hands. For Russian ergot 425m. per 100 kilos. has been paid. HGII oil of peppermint is now quoted 5 75m. per lb. Agar-agar is quieter.

SMYRNA, April 3, 10.10 A.M.:—The market here is strong, and business for American account still continues.

BERGEN, April 3, 11.30 A.M.:—The cod liver oil market is quiet, and lower with sellers of best Lofoten non-congealing oil at 66s. per barrel f.o.b. The total catch of cod to date amounts to 20 610,000 against 17,334 000 at the corresponding period of last year. This will yield 29,760 barrels of steam-refined oil against 17,175 barrels last year.

London Drug Statistics.

The following statistics are compiled from information supplied by public warehouses. They relate to the receipts and deliveries of some of the leading drugs from and into the London public warehouses for the month of March, 1901, and to the stocks on March 31.

	March		Stocks		1901	
	Landed	Delivd.	1901	1900	Imprtd.	Delivrd.
Aloes cs &c.	169	97	3,037	2,524	454	473
„ gounds	—	—	766	160	—	268
Anise, star cs	—	5	54	54	11	5
Balsams csks &c.	160	272	25	401	441	671
Calamba bgs	50	125	1,037	119	505	374
Camphor pkgs	424	805	3,143	1,959	1,548	2,244
Cardamoms cs &c.	307	488	2,15	2,347	712	863
Cinchona pkgs	1,727	1,939	10,083	13,849	5,507	5,045
Cubeba bgs	—	135	1,394	1,654	—	154
Dragon's-blood cs	12	34	18	90	26	75
Galls pkgs	2,425	1,053	4,100	1,394	3,834	2,223
Gums—						
Ammoniacum „	53	5	98	68	60	33
Animi & copal „	4,117	3,609	11,126	6,526	10,298	9,933
Arabic „	2,401	2,342	14,884	10,129	3,930	6,801
Asafetida „	7	78	351	773	514	539
Benzoin „	310	251	923	1,200	582	594
Damar „	300	360	4,019	4,153	1,002	1,535
Galbanum „	—	2	10	14	—	6
Gamboge „	—	6	159	259	2	57
Guaiacum „	8	2	37	53	8	10
Kauri tons	176	221	1,901	1,506	522	551
Kino pkgs	36	5	78	35	61	9
Mastic „	—	1	3	25	—	3
Myrrh, E. L. „	23	29	197	275	56	77
Olibanum „	605	637	2,7	2,748	2,250	1,018
Sandarac „	134	45	842	732	481	231
Tragacanth „	1,769	817	4,768	2,075	4,229	3,014
Ipecacuanha, Rio bls	15	53	223	196	65	227
„ Cartagena pkgs	73	131	124	152	183	210
Jalap bls	—	23	201	278	—	130
Nux vomica... pkgs	32	325	989	489	316	910
Oils—						
Anise cs	10	12	163	171	30	40
Cassia „	—	—	108	83	—	7
Castor pkgs	148	203	511	745	557	588
Coccol-nut tons	80	106	78	351	209	273
Olive csks, &c.	454	367	955	1,034	1,115	659
Palm tons	6	2	12	3	12	4
† Quinine sulph. lbs	7,124	4,472	196,843	207,664	14,579	27,518
Rhubarb chts	—	125	1,035	1,053	152	306
Sarsaparilla bls	54	50	160	317	272	265
Senna bls &c.	218	611	1,792	2,423	878	1,614
Shellac cs	2,769	3,501	40,445	43,562	14,439	10,712
Turmeric tons	—	74	304	272	9	173
Wax, bees' pkgs	328	272	1,076	1,054	912	1,227
„ Japan cs, &c.	51	115	516	268	126	205

† Includes the quantity at Red Lion, Bull, and Smith's Wharves; also the Docks.

The statistics of goods lying at City Commercial Wharf are not included in above returns.

Russian Steamship Enterprise.

A regular steamship line for freight between Odessa and the ports of the Persian Gulf has been inaugurated by the Russian Society for steamer traffic and commerce. The line receives a subsidy from the Government. The steamer *Kornilow* left Odessa on February 14 loaded with Russian petroleum, refined sugar, and cotton textiles. Many exporters of manufactures from Moscow were on board the *Kornilow* for the purpose of going to Persia to establish trade relations.

London Markets.

ALOES.—Some 50 cases of Socotrine, in kegs, have been sold partly for export and the home trade at up to 75s. for fair hard; soft offer at 72s. 6d. Twenty-one cases of aloes in skins, have arrived.

ARSENIC remains low in price, with sellers at 16l. 10s. per ton for best English powdered.

BALSAM COPAIBA is in good demand. Filtered Maranham is exceedingly scarce on the spot, and 2s. 5d. per lb. is asked.

BENZON.—Quiet. The inquiry this week is for Sumatra Seconds at between 8l. and 9l. of which little is to be had. Some 70 cases Palembang and 70 cases Sumatra have arrived this week.

BLEACHING POWDER is easier at 6l. 5s. to 7l. per ton f.o.b. Liverpool for soft wood, and 6l. 10s. to 7l. 5s. per ton for hardwood.

CAMPHOR.—Another 1/4d. was added to the price of German refined camphor on April 1.

CANARY SEED is slow of sale, and inclined to be easier, although the statistical position is good.

CARAWAY SEED.—Dutch is rather lower at 30s. to 31s. per cwt.; there are speculative offers of new crop for July-August shipment at 23s. 6d. f.o.b. terms.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The sailer *Alsternix* from San Francisco has arrived with 584 sacks of cascara sagrada. A New York report dated March 29 states that all the 1900 bark on the Pacific Coast is reported to have been bought up, and as the next crop is not due until August the New York market is firmer.

CINCHONA.—Our Amsterdam correspondent writes on April 1 that the N.V. Nederlandsche Veem cinchona-bark department estimate the shipments from Java to Europe during March, 1901, at 875,000 Amst. lbs., against 650,000 Amst. lbs. and 977,000 Amst. lbs. for the corresponding period of 1900 and 1899. The total shipments from January to March have been:—

	Amst. lbs.		Amst. lbs.
1901 ...	2,623,000	1897 ...	1,350,000
1900 ...	1,906,000	1896 ...	2,073,000
1899 ...	2,025,800	1895 ...	1,862,000
1898 ...	2,356,000	1894 ...	1,873,000

CLOVES.—Zanzibar are steady at 4 1/4d. per lb. for June-August delivery, but the market is quiet.

COCOA BUTTER.—At the London auctions prices were about 2d. lower, 1,000 cases Cadbury's A selling at 1s. 1 1/2d. to 1s. 2d. per lb., the average being 1s. 1 1/4d. against 1s. 1 1/4d.

COLCHICUM-SEED.—Further business has been done to arrive at 1s. 7d. per lb., c.i.f.

COPPER SULPHATE.—The leading manufacturers have apparently abandoned the syndicate arrangement, and are now free sellers. The usual spring demand has, so far, been disappointing this year, and the American competition at European ports seems to have brought about the recent reduction. A fair amount of business has been done at the decline. A Liverpool report states that considerable purchases have been made at 22l. 5s. to 22l. 10s. per ton, f.o.b., and April delivery is now held at 22l. 15s. to 23l. 10s.

CUMIN-SEED.—A fair quantity of Maltese has been sold recently at 34s. to 35s. per cwt., in place of Mogador quality, stocks of which are exhausted.

ERGOT.—For good sound Russian 2s. c.i.f., has been paid. There are offers at less from Hamburg, but the samples submitted are of doubtful quality. The spot market is quiet, at 2s. 3d. for Russian and 2s. 4d. for Spanish.

FENUGREEK is quiet at 6s. to 6s. 6d. per cwt. spot.

GALLS.—Persian are again easier, but there is slightly more demand for arrival, and business has been done in green at 45s. c.i.f. Continent, and further buyers thereat: for whites sellers ask 40s. c.i.f. Continent, and 39s. has been refused. Blue on the spot have sold in a small way at 57s. 6d.

GINGER.—There is more doing in Cochin ginger at rather dearer prices; washed rough has sold privately at 37s. to

38s. per cwt., small and medium native cut at 47s., and small 44s.

GUM TRAGACANTH.—A moderate business has been done in most grades, at well sustained values for the better qualities; lower grades, however, are easier in the face of large supplies. For Bagdad firsts 17½. per cwt. has been paid for a small parcel.

IPECACUANHA.—Quiet at the auction prices of last week, viz 12s. 3d. to 12s. 6d. for Rio. Cartagena is quoted 7s. 9d. to 8s. for good. About 44 packages of the latter description have arrived this week.

LIME-JUICE is hardening; no good West Indian can be obtained under 1s. per gallon.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—Our Bergen correspondent writes on March 30 that although the fishing still continues poor, and the increase in the catch nothing like that expected, the tendency of the market is nevertheless easier, and buyers are reserved, waiting further developments. Finest new non-congealing Lofoten, at the time of writing, is quoted 67s. per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen. The weather is still stormy. The exports from Bergen up to date amount to 2,416½ barrels, against 1,729 barrels at the corresponding period of last year. The market is lower this week, agents quoting from 65s. to 66s. per barrel c.i.f.

OIL, CUBE.—Has been reduced by English distillers to 4s. 6d. per lb.

OIL, NUTMEG.—The list price has been reduced to 5½d. per oz. and B.P. quality to 6½d.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—In American HGH further business has been done at 6s. spot, though for 10-case lots this quotation could be shaded.

OPIUM.—The London market is quiet, with the easy tendency reported last week.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 29.—We have to record another week of absolute quietness. The market keeps quietly steady at 8s. 6d. and 8s. 7d. for druggists, and notwithstanding decline in Smyrna holders here show no anxiety to sell. Rain has fallen in some parts of the interior, but in others it is wanted badly. Under the most favourable conditions we do not expect the crop to yield over 6,500 cases maximum, and we hardly think it will reach this figure.

PEPPER.—Singapore black is firmer for arrival, owing to small shipments. Fifty tons have changed hands at 6½d. per lb. for March-May steamer.

QUININE.—A good speculative business was done last Thursday and Friday, after the Amsterdam bark sale, and the receipt of news of small shipments from Java for March. The transactions included spot at 1s 3¼d. to 1s. 3¾d.; May at 1s. 3¾d. to 1s. 3¾d., and August 1s. 4d. to 1s. 4¾d. per oz. This week, however, practically no business has been done in secondhands, and prices are easier, with sellers of June delivery at 1s. 3¾d., and August at 1s. 4d. At the auction of quinine in Java to-day the bulk of the offering was disposed of at an advance of 11 per cent., the average price paid being 22¾d. against 20¼d. at the previous auction. The American brand (P. & W.) was advanced to 34c. last week, but other makers still quote 32c. German sulphate from makers is unchanged at 1s. 4¾d.

SARSAPARILLA.—Grey Jamaica is reported to have been sold at 1s. 6d. per lb. in second-hands. The arrivals this week include 12 bales Lima-Jamaica and 24 serons Honduras.

SENNA.—The deliveries of Tinnevely leaf during the past two months show a considerable improvement. The bulk of the stock in the warehouse is of common quality, good green leaf being very scarce privately and firmly held.

SHELLAC.—Very quiet. The sales on Tuesday went off flatly, and without change, only about 100 cases of the 559 offered being disposed of. Fine pale lemony sold at 72s., palish cakey and fair bright red, 59s.; fair bright reddish, partly blocky, 57s. to 58s. per cwt.; ordinary red cakey to blocky, 55s. A few cases of worked Garnet sold at 54s. Privately business has been quite retail, fair TN orange selling on a basis of 58s. spot.

VANILLA.—The monthly auction due on Wednesday has been postponed until May 1, owing to the Easter holidays.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE President was unable to be present at Wednesday's meeting owing to an attack of laryngitis. His place was taken by Mr. C. B. Allen, the Vice-President. Twenty-eight nominations have been received for the seven vacant places as Councillors, and of these seventeen have signified their willingness to serve if elected. Mr. Johnston, a retiring Councillor and one of the Scotch members, does not seek re-election, but four members of the Society in Scotland are willing to take his place. Dr. Stevenson's report of the examinations to the Privy Council was read, and thought by the Vice-President to be extremely satisfactory. The report again hints at the need for a curriculum. Donations to the Benevolent Fund were announced from Mr. A. Fieldsend, the Pharmacy Club, and the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Association. Grants from the Fund of 89l. were made. A motion had been proposed by Mr. Glyn-Jones—the subject of which was not hinted at—but the Vice-President ruled it out of order and characterised it as a "most improper one." The prize-awards to students of the School of Pharmacy were approved of. It transpired also that a departmental committee is considering the means for improving the poison-regulations, and several letters were relegated to that committee to deal with. Mr. Wootton brought a motion forward asking the Council to approve of Lord Avebury's Early-closing Bill. Mr. Walter Hills moved an amendment that the Society do not express its opinion, but as the discussion went against the amendment it was withdrawn, and the motion was carried.

The monthly meeting of the Council was held on April 3 at 16 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. There were present the Vice-President (Mr. C. B. Allen), the Treasurer (Mr. S. R. Atkins), and Messrs. M. Carteighe, A. Cooper, O. Corder, W. G. Cross, W. S. Glyn-Jones, J. F. Harrington, J. Harrison, W. Hills, J. Johnston, W. Martindale, C. J. Park, A. L. Savory, A. Southall, D. Storrar, C. Symes, J. Taylor, and A. C. Wootton. The Vice-President occupied the chair and the Treasurer the vice-chair.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he was extremely sorry to inform the meeting that the President was indisposed. He had had a cold for some time; perhaps he had not taken proper care of himself during his journeyings to and from the meetings he had been attending in the Society's interests throughout the country, and now the cold had developed into a definite attack of laryngitis. He was pleased to say the latest report was that the President was a little better. There also was a letter from Mr. Young, who had suffered a bereavement in his family which precluded his attendance.

THANKS FROM THE KING.

A communication was then read from the Home Office thanking the Society for its letter of condolence on the death of Queen Victoria and congratulation on the accession of King Edward VII. This was a lithographed form on a folio sheet of black-edged paper, with the name of the Society filled in.

The Vice-President also announced the receipt of

THE SUPPLEMENTAL CHARTER,

which was applied for some time ago. The Councillors, he said, would be familiar with the circumstances which caused them to apply for the charter, and the members see the wording of the charter as it was proposed to publish it. He also mentioned as an interesting circumstance that this charter was probably the first which the new King had granted.

Supplemental Pharmaceutical Charter.

Edward the Seventh by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come greeting

Whereas it hath been represented to us on the Petition of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain that in the 15th and 16th, and 31st and 32nd years of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Acts known shortly as the Pharmacy Acts 1852 and 1868 were passed whereby the Society is required to perform and discharge large and important public duties; that by reason of the said duties the powers conferred upon the Society by the Royal Charter of Incorporation granted by Her said late Majesty as to the purchase and acquisition of messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments have become inadequate and that it is desirable that the same should be extended; that a benevolent fund has been formed for the relief of distressed members of the Society past and present and of chemists and druggists and their widows and orphans; that by means of generous donations pecuniary bequests subscriptions and grants the said fund now amounts to a considerable sum of money; that in order to insure the proper investment of the said fund it is further desirable that the said powers should be extended, that the Society may be thereby enabled from time to time to make purchases of freehold lands and hereditaments or of freehold ground-rents such purchases affording from their prominent and possibly improving nature investments both prudent and advantageous, and they have besought us to grant them and their successors our royal Supplementary Charter conferring upon them such further powers as are herein contained

And whereas we have taken the said petition into our Royal consideration and we are minded to accede thereto.

Now know ye that we by virtue of our royal prerogative in that behalf and of the other powers thereunto us enabling of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion have willed granted and declared and do by these presents for us our heirs and successors will grant and declare that the said Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain without prejudice and in addition to any former powers already conferred upon them whether by charter or otherwise, and to any purchases or acquisitions heretofore made thereunder shall be able and capable in the law, notwithstanding the statutes of Mortmain at any time hereafter to take purchase possess hold and enjoy to them and their successors any messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever the yearly value of which shall not exceed Ten thousand pounds computing the same at the regular rent which might be had or gotten for the same at the time of the purchase or acquisition thereof; and also to sell any lands tenements and hereditaments and to purchase again other lands tenements and hereditaments not exceeding in the whole at any one time the annual value aforesaid to be estimated as aforesaid.

And we do hereby grant our special licence and authority unto all and every person and persons bodies politic and corporate otherwise competent to grant sell alien and convey in Mortmain unto and to the use of the said institution or Society and their successors any messuages lands tenements or hereditaments the whole thereof to be held by the said Society at any one time not exceeding such annual value as aforesaid.

In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent witness ourself at Westminster the 27 day of March in the first year of our reign.

By Warrant under the King's Sign Manual.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS

A number of members and student-associates of the Society were elected, and some names restored to their former position in the Society.

COUNCILLOR NOMINATIONS

The SECRETARY announced that there were twenty-eight nominations received for the seven seats on the Council, which will be vacant in May. Seventeen of the nominees had signified their willingness to serve if elected. They are:—

Charles Bowen Allen, London
Samuel R. Atkins, Salisbury
A. S. Camplin, Cambridge
Octavius Corder, Norwich
Richard L. Gifford, Blackburn
Geo. Jas. Gostling, Stowmarket
Harry Kemp, Manchester
James Mackenzie, Edinburgh
David McLaren, Edinburgh

William Martindale, London
John Wm. T. Morrison, Tring
G. T. W. Newsholme, Sheffield
James Paterson, Aberdeen
Samuel N. Pickard, Ossett
C. E. Pickering, London
Arthur Ledam Savory, London
John B. Stephenson, Edinburgh

The names of those nominated who had not signified their willingness to serve are:—Mr. Currie, Glasgow; Mr. Dott, Edinburgh; Mr. Ewing, Edinburgh; Mr. Johnston, Aber-

deen; Mr. Keen, Bristol; Mr. Kerr, Dundee; Mr. Nesbit, Portobello; Mr. Maben, Glasgow; Mr. Smith, St. Leonards; and Mr. Warren, London.

AUDITORS.

Nominations of the present auditors were also received.

EXAMINATIONS REPORT.

The VICE-PRESIDENT then announced that the Lords of the Council had sent a copy of Dr. Stevenson's report as visitor to the examinations held in London during last year. The following is an abstract of the report:—

For the First examination 1,767 candidates were examined, of whom 855 passed, and 912 failed; mention was made of the fact that the examination is now abolished. For the Minor, 1,357 candidates were examined, of whom 381 passed and 976 failed. The high percentage of rejections cannot be accounted for by the exceptional severity of the examiners. It was obvious that very many candidates presented themselves who were in no manner well prepared to practise the business of a chemist or druggist. For the Major examination, 103 candidates presented themselves for examination, 43 passed, and 60 failed. Until definite instruction is made obligatory, the large proportion of rejections in the Minor and Major examinations cannot be expected to undergo material diminution. Lack of methodical and accurate training, which can only be acquired by courses of instruction given by competent teachers, is very manifest.

Dr. SYMES said it was rather difficult to follow the report as it was read, but Dr. Stevenson seemed to say at first that the failures were largely in practical subjects, but on coming to the figures it seemed the largest proportion of failures was due to chemistry.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: In practical chemistry.

Dr. SYMES: There seems a much larger proportion of failures in practical chemistry than in anything else. Of course it depends on what Dr. Stevenson means by practical subjects; a pharmacist would naturally think of such things as dispensing.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he was sure they were all pleased to get such an extremely satisfactory report, and he hoped it would be carefully read by every member of the Society. It was a thoroughly convincing document for showing the fairness with which the examinations were conducted. They would notice also at the end a suggestion for a regulated form of study for the candidates—a requirement which members of the Council and members of the Society had reiterated for a long time.

Dr. SYMES said he was not criticising the report; he only wanted an explanation, and he had got it.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee was next read. It showed balances on the

	£	s.	d.
General Fund Account	4,489	2	4
Benevolent Fund Account	552	14	1
Orphan Fund Account	303	12	0

and submitted for payment accounts totalling 2,324*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* The details of the payments were given as follows:—On behalf of the *Journal*, 679*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*; library catalogue, 175*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.*; rent, 184*l.* 10*s.*; law expenses, 294*l.* 8*s.* 1*d.*; fees for charter, 102*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*; sundries, 87*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*; and current expenses, 800*l.* (500*l.* for London and 300*l.* for Edinburgh).

Mr. MARTINDALE, in proposing the report be received and adopted, said in the month of March they always received a good number of subscriptions to the Society and Benevolent Fund. They had also received for the Benevolent Fund 5*l.* 5*s.* from Mr. Arthur Fieldsend, 10*l.* 10*s.* from the Pharmacy Club, and 25*s.* from the Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Association. The last amount was collected at a smoking-concert, and was pleasing evidence of the interest the younger generation took in the Benevolent Fund.

The report was adopted.

BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was then considered in committee; after which

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that grants—two of 20%, three of 13%, and one of 10%—had been made. In regard to the Waterall legacy, the committee had several deserving names before them, but the business was not quite complete. With the Secretary he had had the opportunity of consulting with several Nottingham chemists, but their inquiries were not quite finished. He proposed, therefore, that the appointment under the Waterall legacy be deferred till next month.

The TREASURER said it was interesting to note that the average of the six cases relieved was as high as 15%, and that the total of the six applicants' ages was 423—an average of 70 years.

The report was adopted.

DIVISIONAL SECRETARIES.

The VICE-PRESIDENT then said he had a pleasant duty to perform in proposing that two new divisional secretaries be appointed. They were Mr. W. R. Hopkins, Barry, for South Glamorgan, and Mr. H. M. Lloyd, Merthyr, for Glamorgan. It was a pleasant duty because this was a district in which a difficulty had been found in getting members to fill the post of divisional secretary. He thought the appointment of these two gentlemen was due largely to the recent visit of their President to South Wales, when he had imbued the chemists with considerable enthusiasm. He also proposed that Mr. C. W. Cook be appointed divisional secretary for the West Toxteth division of Liverpool, in place of Mr. John Smith, paying at the same time a tribute to the services Mr. Smith had rendered to the Society.

Dr. SYMES said, as an eye-witness of the way Mr. Smith had performed his duties, he would like to say that as a local secretary the Society could not have had a better man anywhere. Mr. Smith worked at it as a serious business, and sought every opportunity of adding to the membership of the Society and pushing its interests. He hoped his interest in the Society would continue now he had gone to St. Leonards.

Mr. CORDER said he noticed there had been no divisional secretary elected for Norwich, a city of 120,000 inhabitants. He would like to know whether any chemist had been approached to see if he were willing to take the post.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: It is a deplorable state of things. Several people have been requested to become divisional secretaries, but have declined.

The SECRETARY said he hoped Dr. Symes would make the peace of the Society with the Liverpool Chemists' Association, as possibly there might be a misunderstanding owing to their letter recommending Mr. Cook as divisional secretary having been received before Mr. John Smith had resigned his post.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

The report of the Library, Museum, and House Committee was next read, in which it was mentioned that the new library catalogue was now available for members and student associates. The particulars of the classes held in the Society's schools were supplied at the request of the London University, and the draft annual report submitted to the Council for consideration. The same committee—then sitting as a Research Committee—received reports from Professors Collie and Greenish on the work proceeding in the Research Laboratory.

The report was adopted.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: We will now take the correspondence.

Mr. GLYN-JONES: Is there any reason why the order of agenda should be altered?

The VICE-PRESIDENT: We have on former occasions dealt with the general business first, and taken motions afterwards. That has been the established custom of the Council from time immemorial. The Vice-President then went on to say they had received a copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of about seventy chemists held in Leeds approving of the Pharmacy Bill, and promising to do their utmost to promote its passing. He, the Vice-President, had been present at the meeting, and it was a most enthusiastic and well-organised meeting. Mr. Branson's name as the organiser was sufficient to ensure that the meeting would be well arranged. Mr. Branson treated them very kindly indeed, and met them at a preliminary meeting, at which the order of the meeting was arranged. Perhaps Mr. Harrison, who was also at the meeting, might supplement his remarks.

Mr. HARRISON said he had nothing to add to what the Vice-President had said, and fully agreed with what had been said. He thought it was impossible to estimate the great amount of good done by members of Council being brought into contact with chemists throughout the country. He had attended earlier in the month a similar meeting at Middlesbrough, which he found as enthusiastic as the Leeds meeting. They must remember that if they expected their Bill to get through Parliament they would require to use all the forces at their disposal.

POISONS-REGULATIONS.

Dr. SYMES here mentioned that he had intended submitting a resolution in regard to the extending the poisons-regulations to the Council for consideration in May. He understood, however, that a committee had been formed to deal with this particular question, so that he left it to the President whether he should put forward his motion or not. The poisons-regulations were very badly in need of revision, and he took it that the original regulations were only intended as a preliminary to fuller ones dealing with the question.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said a departmental committee had been appointed to deal with a communication they had received from the Government, and it also had similar letters in regard to the poisons-regulations to deal with. He therefore thought it was hardly opportune for Dr. Symes to submit his motion.

The portion of the General Purposes Committee which was made public was that relating to

THE COUNCIL-PRIZES

awarded to the students of the School of Pharmacy. The list is as follows:—

Botany.—Silver medal, John Lawson; certificates of honour, Chas. T. Allen and Harold Deane.

Materia Medica.—Silver medal, Harold Deane; 1st certificate of honour, John Lawson; 2nd certificate of honour, Charles T. Allen.

Chemistry.—Silver medal, Harold Deane; 1st certificate of honour, Charles T. Allen; 2nd certificate of honour T. Hirst.

Practical Chemistry.—Silver medal, John Lawson; 1st certificate of honour, C. W. B. Heslop; 2nd certificate of honour, Harold Deane.

Mr. MARTINDALE said that he was glad to see the keen competition there was between the Vice-President's son and Mr. Deane, who was an old pupil of his.

LETTERS.

A letter was received from the Privy Council acknowledging the receipt of the draft Pharmacy Bill, with an intimation that the Council would be informed when it is convenient for the Privy Council to receive a deputation.

The Lord Chancellor also acknowledged receipt of the Bill.

From the Colonial Office a copy of a communication from the Pharmacy Board of Queensland was submitted, asking that the reciprocal treatment of certificates of qualification between the colonies and Great Britain be left to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The Wolverhampton Chemists' Association thanked the Council for sending them a copy of the Register, and asked for a copy of the Calendar.

Mr. Cummings (Dundee) sent a communication in reference to placing all scheduled poisons in poison-bottles.

Mr. Townley (Kewick) a divisional secretary, reported that he had canvassed the chemists in his district, and of eleven chemists only one was against the new Pharmacy Bill, and one preferred not to express an opinion.

Mr. Birkbeck (Lincoln) wrote that a meeting of Lincoln chemists had expressed themselves in favour of the Pharmacy Bill. A similar communication was received from Yarmouth.

The Liverpool Chemists' Association recommended Mr. Cook as divisional secretary, and

The Edinburgh District Trade Association signified their intention of supporting the Bill.

THE PHARMACY BILL.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said, in view of the communication from the Privy Council, and the enthusiasm excited through-

out the country in the Pharmacy Bill, it was desirous that they should take the necessary steps to bring the Bill before Parliament. He suggested that the future conduct of the Bill should be left to the Watch Committee, with instructions to take such steps as should seem practical to them to introduce the Bill into Parliament.

Mr. CARTEIGHE: A very appropriate suggestion!

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Then we will take it that the Bill is to be left to the Watch Committee

A VERY IMPROPER MOTION.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he had received a notice of motion by Mr. Glyn-Jones which was printed on the agenda-paper. He had communicated with the President, and, like him, thought the motion a very improper one, and accordingly he ruled it out of order.

Mr. GLYN-JONES: Do I understand that a motion—(Chair, chair.)

Mr. CARTEIGHE: There can be no discussion on the ruling of the chair. (No hint as to what the motion was about was given.)

THE EARLY-CLOSING BILL.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said Mr. Wootton had submitted a proposal in regard to the Early-closing Bill, which he had great pleasure in asking him to move.

Mr. WOOTTON then proposed his resolution, which was—

That this Council approves of the principle of Lord Avebury's Shops (Early-closing) Bill at present before the House of Lords.

There was a clause in the Bill, he said, that allowed chemists and druggists to sell medicines and medical appliances at any time, even if the shop was closed. An essential feature of the Bill was that it authorised the majority of tradesmen in any district to petition the local authorities to consider the question of closing shops at a certain time, and local authority had discretion left to them as to whether shops should be closed or not. A majority of two-thirds of the tradesmen in a district was required, but it was probable that the proportion would be much larger in the Bill as it passed. The theory of the Bill was that a small minority should not be able to prevent the majority from closing their shops at a reasonable hour. The Bill, it would be noticed, met the objection that shopping was often very largely done in the evening between the hours of 7 and 10. That was the case in the London suburbs, and doubtless the suburbs would be the very last place to adopt the Bill, as obviously the tradesmen of a district would not sign in a sufficient majority to enable the local authority to put the Act into operation. The chief objection to the Bill came from those persons who strongly object to coercion. (Hear, hear.) He had general sympathy with that objection if it were possible to attain their purpose by any other means. In this case they accepted coercion as the lesser of two evils. He remembered in the sixties that the compulsory clauses of the Education Act were very strongly objected to, but he did not think anyone would object to them now. The only desire of the Bill was that an infinitesimal minority, often a single tradesman, should not prevent the closing of shops in a district. Half-holiday movements often utterly failed owing to a single individual, and in face of this he did not think it was unfair to ask that a few individuals should be coerced to a slight extent so that they should not prevent a large majority from closing at reasonable hours. Voluntary effort had completely failed, as he did not think chemists' shops closed earlier now than they did when he first knew the trade. (A voice: Oh, yes.) He did not think frequent coercion would be necessary. One of the objects of the Council had been to consider the means of attracting young men of the better class into the Society, and he ventured to say that nothing would bring about that result sooner than to show that shops were closed earlier than they used to be. Long hours had caused a revulsion against the trade. He would like to say also that a large amount of interest for the fate of the Bill was manifested by the chemists of the country, and begged permission to state what he knew of the views of chemists in the country. In 1886, when Sir John Lubbock first introduced an Early-closing Bill, he noticed that chemists and druggists were exempted from the operations of the Bill. He called to see Sir John Lubbock, and asked him why this was so.

Sir John informed him that they would like to include chemists if it could be shown that as a body they desired it. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST thereupon sent out 10,000 copies of the Bill with a voting-paper attached, with the result that 1,330 chemists were in favour of compulsory closing and only 734 against. In 1895 he was called upon to give evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. Before he gave his evidence he sent out voting-papers to three typical towns, enclosing a stamped postcard for reply. The towns selected were Liverpool, Birmingham, and Brighton, and the results obtained were more astonishing than those of the previous time. In Liverpool 106 voted for the Bill, 10 against, whilst 3 were neutral; in Birmingham 101 were for the Bill, 11 against, and 6 neutral; in Brighton 36 were for the Bill, 6 against it, and 3 neutral. The same journal had now applied to the Secretaries of all the local Associations for the opinion of the members of their Association, and he had been informed by the Editor that out of fifty replies forty-eight were in favour of the Bill. The two dissentients were the Western Chemists' Association of London, and—of all people in the world—the Chemists' Assistants' Association of London. He merely mentioned these facts to convince them of the overwhelming feeling in favour of the Bill, and he trusted the Council would see its way to give its influential support to the Bill.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Does anyone second the resolution?

Mr. CORDER: I have great pleasure in doing so.

Mr. WALTER HILLS then rose and proposed as an amendment: "That having regard to the known division of opinion as to the principle of Lord Avebury's Bill, this Council declines to express its opinion on the matter." Mr. Wootton had used the word coercion *ad nauseam* throughout his speech, and coercion was a thing repellant to all Englishmen. The case of compulsory education was altogether different from the one at present before them. The only way was to trust to enlightened public opinion. The method proposed in the Bill was not the best way of dealing with the question; hours of business would be gradually curtailed as public opinion got enlightened. He objected to the Bill both as a trader and a pharmacist. If they gave way to the principle the majority should be much larger than was proposed in the Bill. If one man prevented ninety-nine from closing their shops, and were weak-backed enough to want the assent of the one man, it might help them, but for ninety-nine men to compel thirty-three others to close was a matter of tyranny. He should prefer that chemists be left out altogether, as from a professional point of view he should always be available to the public. As a tradesman he objected to the principle; but as a large number of those whom he had the honour of representing were in favour of it, he did not feel called upon to vote directly against the Bill.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: Will someone second the amendment?

Mr. CROSS said as a country member he had great pleasure in seconding Mr. Hill's amendment. He was not high-minded, nor had he proud looks; but he objected to be classed with greengrocers and other tradesmen in the Bill. The Council was not a body to pass such a resolution as Mr. Wootton's.

Mr. TAYLOR said it was the duty of the proposer of a motion to justify it, and he had not the shadow of a doubt that the present motion was justified. The present would be a good opportunity of proving to the trade that the Council took an interest in trade affairs. Men were continually asking what the Society did for the trade, and here was an opportunity of showing that they did something. The matter was a question of bread-and-butter, and the mover need not have any scruple for bringing his motion before the Council. The Bill was a permissive one, and the discussion on early closing could not be taken by the local authority till two out of three tradesmen in a district were in favour of it. The enlightened public opinion which Mr. Hills spoke of would never be able to do anything without coercion. There were different aspects of coercion. In Lancashire it was the proud boast that they were the most independent and enlightened men in England, but they welcomed the Bill. The form of coercion they hated most was that of the purse-proud man who cared nothing about improving the conditions of his

humbler competitors. He was aware that many hard-working men were opposed to the Bill, but many of these only worked for a hobby. Lord Salisbury, one of the hardest-working men in England, did it voluntarily, and as for Sir Blundell Maple, what can he possibly know about the stress of labour and the condition of the small tradesman, whose every endeavour is often required to keep the wolf from the door? It had been said by a great statesman that provincial opinion was worth more than London opinion, and he ventured to say this was a case in point. Provincial opinion is very strongly in favour of the Bill. It would be a great boon, and no difficulty would be found in putting it in force. He spoke from personal experience of a struggle which took place to obtain a half-holiday in Bolton. He was the first chemist to close on the Wednesday afternoon, with the consequence that at first his returns for Wednesday went to zero. In a few months, however, the tide turned, and people apologised for coming late, his takings on Tuesdays and Thursdays went up, and fully compensated for the loss of Wednesdays' trade. All the chemists in Bolton closed now, and not one of them would care to give up the holiday after the experience of the last few years. With a little quiet coercion the reform would not have been delayed as long as it was. All the trouble might have been avoided if they could go in the name of the law to the local authority and get it to move in the matter. The motion had his utmost support.

MR. HARRINGTON said he did not think they need anticipate any difficulty about the sale of medical appliances. Neither did he think if a man sold a bottle of eau-de-Cologne he would be convicted by any magistrate. As far as the Bill was concerned, he thought Lord Avebury should leave the matter in the hands of local authorities instead of the hands of shopkeepers themselves.

MR. COOPER thought the Bill would not affect dispensing-houses, and as such he did not think there would be any difficulty in carrying out their business. Mr. Wootton's figures were extremely interesting, and most valuable.

MR. SOUTHALL supported the motion, but thought Mr. Wootton a little unfortunate in some of the language he used. It had given Mr. Hills an opportunity of speaking strongly against it. He thought Mr. Wootton, instead of the word "coercion" might have said combinations. (Laughter.)

MR. WOOTTON: Do you wear them. (Loud laughter.)

MR. SOUTHALL did not think there was anything at all in the shortening of hours, but it was their duty to support their weaker brethren, and they would be very wise in supporting legislation which had that object in view.

DR. SYMES supported Mr. Wootton. He sympathised with the effort to shorten hours of business. He thought the advantages to be gained by this measure outweighed the disadvantages. He had some experience of local and combined attempts at early closing, but the standing out of one or two persons generally broke down the arrangements made, and the efforts had resulted in failure.

MR. MARTINDALE thought Mr. Hills had touched on the weak spot when he attacked the word "coercion." He (Mr. Martindale) could not agree with coercion in their business, which was required to meet the wants of the public at all hours. He objected also to the necessity of probably working in a darkened shop on sunlit afternoons. A chemist was intelligent enough to deal with this matter for himself.

MR. GLYN-JONES supported the motion. He asked if the Council were never to take the initiative or to express an opinion except upon a subject upon which they were quite certain that the whole of the members of the Society and the trade were unanimous. They were there to express an opinion, and the fact that there was a diversity of opinion in the trade should act more as an incentive to them to express an opinion at the Council board. He thought coercion could be exerted very effectively and properly if they had a case in which forty-five chemists out of fifty in a district were desirous of closing early. There were Early-closing Associations whose methods could only be described as a form of coercion—such as in the Bolton case—and these methods certainly were to be avoided. He objected to the term "weak-kneed" being applied to those who kept their shops open because others in the same neighbourhood kept open. It was a matter in many cases of men building up businesses against keen opposition, where to close would be

fatal to their living. He could not understand the objections of the Western Chemists' Association. It was the duty of the Council to support any measure that would tend to bring about better conditions, which this Bill would do. Mr. Cross said they were not the body to touch this matter; he (Mr. Glyn-Jones) thought differently. And as to grandmotherly legislation, if they told him that legislation was grandmotherly which would enable the great majority of a trade to coerce a small minority, then by all means have it grandmotherly or otherwise.

MR. CARTEIGHE thought the matter not quite so big a thing as it appeared to be. In his view the pharmaceutical chemist and chemist and druggist should not be included in the Bill at all, but the great majority of the chemists throughout the country, after trying various methods, had found that they should be included, and that there should be an attempt to get legislative powers for themselves as a part of the general community of shopkeepers. All at that Council-table were in favour of shortening hours, and if chemists as shopkeepers supported the Bill they ought to vote for Mr. Wootton's motion, and he should do so—(applause)—on the ground that he was obtaining facilities for the health and knowledge and power of making a livelihood of his brethren in the trade. He hoped Mr. Hills would let the vote be carried unanimously, as there was not much force in the observations he had made. (Laughter.) The argument he used did not apply so strongly as it might if the Bill were one they were running themselves.

MR. ATKINS also supported the motion of Mr. Wootton, and he thought they should all do that, not simply as a body representing the community of chemists, but taking the wider view as to what was good for the country. He believed the object of the Bill was a wise one.

MR. HILLS said, surprised as he was to hear the views of so many antagonistic to his amendment, he did not back down from his view of the matter; but with the permission of his seconder (Mr. Gowan Cross) he would withdraw it.

The amendment was then withdrawn.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT then put Mr. Wootton's motion to the meeting, and it was carried, only two members (Messrs. Hills and Cross) voting against it.

This closed the public business.

Coming Events.

Wednesday, April 10.

Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, at 8.30 p.m. Students' night.

Nottingham and Notts Chemists' Association, at 9 p.m. in the Masonic Hall, Goldsmith Street, Nottingham. "Notes on Bacteriology," by Mr. A. Eberlin.

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association Annual general meeting. The retiring Council are Messrs. J. C. Kidd, H. Kemp, W. Kirkby, W. Lane, W. Gibbons, A. J. Pidd, J. Taylor, T. Woodruff, G. S. Woolley, J. Wild, J. W. Walton, and E. Yates. A smoking-concert follows the meeting, at which several well-known artistes have consented to entertain the members.

Thursday, April 11.

Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association. Annual dinner at the Bull Hotel, Cambridge, at 8.30. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, can be had from Mr. B. S. Campkin, Mill Road, Cambridge.

Photographic Trade Association, Arderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, E.C., at 7 p.m. First general meeting. Mr. Geo. Houghton in the chair.

The Bristol meeting of chemists convened by the Pharmaceutical Society, will be held on April 17.

The annual dinner of the Leicester Chemists' Social Union will be held in the Bell Hotel, Leicester, on April 18. Tickets (3s. 6d.) can be had from Mr. F. W. Goodess, 13½ Hotel Street, Leicester.

Royal Institution.—The lecture arrangements after Easter include three lectures on "The Chemistry of Carbon" by Professor Dewar, and two lectures on "The Biological Characters of Epiphytic Plants," by Professor J. B. Farmer. The Friday evening meetings will be resumed on April 19, when a discourse will be delivered by Professor J. J. Thomson, on "The Existence of Bodies Smaller than Atoms." Then will follow Professor J. C. Bose, on "The Response of Inorganic Matter to Mechanical and Electrical Stimulus" (May 10); and Dr. R. T. Glazebrook on "The Aims of the National Physical Laboratory" (May 24).

IRISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

FIFTH YEAR.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1901.

No. 52.

Review of the Month.

A QUESTION was asked in the House of Commons on March 25 by Mr. Field as to whether the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland was aware that the Irish firms competing for the supply of Local Government Board's prescribed lists of medicines are compelled to offer a discount off the scheduled prices; and that the Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland, which holds a Royal charter occupying a semi-official position, tenders for those contracts under cost-price; whether any of the members of the Apothecaries' Hall hold Government appointments; and whether a system will be adopted to enable private firms to enter into competitions for those contracts. Mr. Wyndham replied all firms tender upon precisely the same terms, and offer an abatement upon the gross cost of the articles purchased during the year. The Apothecaries' Hall enjoys no privilege in connection with these contracts. It holds a charter for instruction in medicine, but the commercial branch transacts business for the benefit of the shareholders in the same way as any other firm. Private firms already compete for these contracts, and appear to secure about 96 per cent. and the Apothecaries' Hall about 4 per cent. No change is proposed to be made in the system. He had no information on the second part of the question. On March 11 a copy of the Order in Council approving of a regulation made by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland was presented and ordered to lie on the table.

* * * *

THE EARLY-CLOSING BILL is being considered by a Committee of the House of Lords. Lord Avebury is very fittingly the President, as the Bill is one which for years has been under his care. The first measure, which Lord Avebury (then Sir John Lubbock) introduced into the House of Commons proposed to exclude chemists and druggists from the benefits of early closing, but now they are included with a clause exempting the supply of medicines, drugs, or medical appliances by chemists after hours. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, at the suggestion of Lord Avebury, is taking the opinion of the trade as to whether they agree with the provisions of the Bill as far as they relate to chemists. Previous votes of the trade taken in 1886 and 1895 showed that chemists desired to be included in the early-closing provisions, and the present plebiscite is yielding like results.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION in the Dublin Southern Court has settled that sulphocyanides are poisons within the meaning of the Pharmacy Acts (Ireland). In Great Britain pharmaceutical authorities have suggested that ammonium sulphocyanide is not a poison under the Pharmacy Act (1868), so that Ireland possesses another advantage in its more comprehensive poison-schedule. The cases were taken against photographic dealers not qualified under the Irish Acts, and each defendant was fined 5*l.*—2*l.* 10*s.* for each summons. The full report of these cases is given on page 27.

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MR. R. J. MOSS, Registrar of the Royal Society, Dublin, who has conducted the Students' Corner of the *C. & D.* since 1869, has been obliged by increasing demands on his time to give up the work. Dr. John Attfield, Mr. A. C. Wootton



RICHARD JACKSON MOSS, F.I.C., F.C.S.

and Mr. W. A. Shenstone, F.R.S., contribute testimony as to the origin and value of the Students' Corner and of Mr. Moss's work. Dr. Leonard Dobbin, also an Irishman, is to be Mr. Moss's successor. The corner has always been popular with Irish students, and is acknowledged by all parties to be an exceedingly useful incentive to pharmacy students.

A

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE Council met on Wednesday, March 6, at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 o'clock. The President (Mr. George D. Beggs) occupied the chair, and the other members who attended were the Vice-President (Mr. Bernard) and Messrs. W. F. Wells, Kelly, Brown, Porter, Simpson, and Baxter, J.P. (Coleraine).

The PRESIDENT moved that Dr. Robert Watt, M.B., B.Ch., and member of the Society, be appointed examiner to conduct the Registered Druggists' examination in Dublin. He had been already appointed for that examination in Belfast, and it was considered desirable that he should be examiner in both cities.

Mr. BAXTER seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

CHEMISTRY STUDIES.

Mr. WELLS, in the absence of Mr. Grindley, brought forward a motion, of which notice had been given by the Hon. Treasurer, viz.:—

That on and after January 1, 1902, all candidates for the pharmaceutical Licence shall produce evidence of having attended two courses of elementary chemistry of four months each; each course to consist of thirty-two lectures of not less than 1½ hour each, and at least three fourths of the lectures to be attended by the candidate at a school of chemistry recognised by the Society; such courses to be taken out previously to entering on the course of practical chemistry, as already required for the pharmaceutical Licence.

The members were all agreed, said Mr. Wells, that it was a mistake to allow candidates to come up for the courses in practical chemistry without having studied the elementary principles of the science. The result was that instead of profiting by the 100 hours of practical work they gained no benefit at all. The Council had started their school of theoretical chemistry at a low fee in order to induce their students to attend it. They had not attended it, and it would appear that it was only under compulsion that they would do so.

The PRESIDENT said he had much pleasure in seconding this proposal. They should safeguard their school in every way, and at the same time not allow any undue advantage to outsiders.

Mr. KELLY said the effect of passing this resolution would be to keep their young men for two years doing nothing but attending lectures. This would be putting too much trouble and expense on them. One course of four months would be sufficient.

Mr. BAXTER thought the proposed regulation would be very hard upon young men serving their time in country districts and in towns where there was no school of chemistry. It would oblige them to do away with one of their four years of apprenticeship, in order to become qualified to enter on the course of practical chemistry. The knowledge of elementary chemistry would, of course, be an advantage to them, but it was not necessary to go to a school to obtain that knowledge: it could be learned from the text-books, and the student's proficiency could be tested by questions. The eight-months' course would have to be attended outside the radius of provincial towns. He would say that a three-months' course would be sufficient. So long a course as that proposed by the resolution would be a great injustice to the pharmacists scattered through the country, who were very materially assisted by their apprentices.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the Council had started their school of elementary chemistry in order to obviate the strictures of Sir George Duffey, the Lord-Lieutenant's Inspector, who had declared that he found their students utterly ignorant of it. Mr. Kelly himself was one of those who supported the establishment of the Elementary Chemistry School, and yet now he would not agree to making its courses compulsory.

Mr. KELLY: I am in favour of a four-months' course, but not an eight-months'.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the age at which lads usually entered the pharmaceutical business was 16. Some entered before that. The young man had to put in a four-years'

apprenticeship. He could not come up for the Licence until he was 21, and the number of those who presented themselves at that age was very small. The candidate could therefore very easily give a year after his apprenticeship to preparing himself for his examination by attending the lectures in question. It was absolutely necessary that their candidates should know something of elementary chemistry. The school had been a loss to the Council, and if it was not wanted by the students let it be given up, and let them learn their elementary chemistry in some other school; but it was not fair to the Council that they should be not only censured by the Visitor's reports because their men were stuck in elementary chemistry, but also censured for not teaching it to them.

Mr. BAXTER: Would it not do to add questions in elementary chemistry to those in practical chemistry?

The PRESIDENT: The cry was that we did not give our students an opportunity of learning elementary chemistry—that we did not teach it to them. The school was the outcome of the Government Visitor's report as to the insufficient knowledge of the students in the branch in question. During the first session of the school only two students attended it, whilst the cost of the school was between 60% and 70%. Both of these students, however, took first places at the Licence examination. During the last session of the school no students attended it.

Mr. WELLS said he was willing to alter his proposal to a four-months' course. If those who took apprentices did as they ought, the apprentices could read their theoretic chemistry. If he could he would make the course of practical chemistry a good deal longer than it was. If the Society wanted to have the confidence of the public, it should take care that its young men were properly educated.

Mr. Wells's motion was then altered by making it require a course of four months' elementary chemistry, the number and duration of the lectures being the same as in the original proposal, the student to attend at least twenty-four of the thirty-two lectures, and the following was added to the resolution:—

This regulation shall not apply to candidates who shall have obtained their certificates in practical chemistry prior to July 1, 1901.

Thus amended, the motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS.

A letter was received from Sir Thomas Robinson conveying his thanks to the Council for their unanimous resolution asking him to reconsider his resignation. He regretted, however, that he could not comply with their request.

Donations were received from the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain of a copy of their Calendar for 1901, and from the Pharmacy Board of Victoria of a copy of their Pharmaceutical Register for 1900. Thanks were voted to the donors.

Reports from the several committees were read and disposed of.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, Mr. J. H. Bowden (of Dublin), Mr. W. B. Murray (of Dublin), and Mr. H. C. Meyrick (of Drogheda) were elected members of the Society. On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, Mr. R. Lyons (of Omagh) was elected an associate druggist.

The Council then adjourned.

THE LORD-LIEUTENANT APPROVES.

The Lord-Lieutenant and Privy Council in Ireland, by an Order in Council dated March 7, approve of the following regulation:—

That in Pharmaceutical Licence examination Regulation VII. (Calendar 1900, page 72), the minimum pass percentage in pharmacy shall be 50 (instead of 45), and that the subdivision "Prescription-reading and British Pharmacopœia" be formed into two distinct subdivisions, with a maximum of 20 and a minimum of 10 in each respectively.

At the same time his Lordship and Council approved of the appointment of Robert Watt, Esq., M.B., B.Ch., L.P.S.I., to be examiner to conduct the examinations at Dublin for the licence to act as a registered druggist.

Legal Report.

Pharmacy Acts (Ireland).

SALE OF POISONS BY PHOTOGRAPHIC DEALERS.

THE Divisional Magistrate, Mr. Swifte, K.C., sitting in the Dublin Southern Court on March 8, had before him a number of prosecutions by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland against photographers and photographic-dealers for selling poisons. Mr. R. Keating Clay, solicitor (of the firm of Messrs. Casey & Clay), prosecuted on behalf of the Society; while none of the defendants was professionally represented. The following three firms were prosecuted (two summonses being issued in each instance):—Messrs. Lafayette (Limited), 30 Westmoreland Street, Dublin; Mr. J. B. Laphen, 37 Mary Street, Dublin; and Mr. Victor Smith, D'Olier Street, Dublin. The summonses were all for allied offences on November 5, 1900, and were for selling sulphocyanide of ammonium and oxalate of potash.

Mr. Clay, in opening the cases against Messrs. Lafayette, called the attention of the Magistrate to the extremely toxic nature of the sulphocyanide, and pointed out that there is a class of professional men specially educated for the purpose of selling and dispensing poisons, amongst whom the defendants were not included.

Mr. Swifte asked: Is there any appearance for the defendants?

An employé of Messrs. Lafayette said that he had been sent to represent the firm.

Mr. Swifte: I think there ought to be a solicitor for a limited company.

Mr. Clay: This man only appears as a witness. (To the employé): What are your instructions?

The Employé: To say that they did not know they were committing any offence, and that they would not do so again.

Mr. Gerald Byrne, solicitor: On behalf of the legal profession I object to this man being heard. He has no right whatever to appear here.

Mr. Clay: I have no desire that he should be heard. But he merely got a message to bring to the effect that the firm expressed regret for having sold the poison. They were in the habit of using the poison in their business.

Mr. Swifte: It is practically a plea of guilty, but I am afraid I cannot take it from anybody except a solicitor representing the company. I do not think I have the power to hear them except through a solicitor.

Mr. Clay: Very well, sir. The Pharmaceutical Society have no interest except to protect the public. I will now prove my case.

Mr. John Doyle then deposed that he was an inspector to the Pharmaceutical Society, and that on November 5, 1900, he purchased the poison at Lafayette's shop in Westmoreland Street, and got a receipt for it.

Professor Chas. Tichborne was then called to prove analysis of the poison.

Mr. Swifte asked: You are a qualified analyst?

Witness: I am a surgeon, a diplomate of public health, and county analyst for the Government. Is that enough?

Mr. Swifte: Oh, quite.

Witness then proved his analysis.

Mr. Swifte asked to see the schedule of poisons, and Mr. Clay gave it to him, pointing out that it contained "cyanide of potassium and all metallic cyanides." (To witness): Does this poison come under that description?—It does. It is a modification of it.

But it is a poison that comes under that description in the schedule of the Act?—In my opinion, yes. The metal ammonium has not been discovered by itself, but it is supposed to be analogous to potassium and sodium. We have an amalgam of it.

Mr. Swifte: Are you able to say that the mixture is a poison?—Yes. There is a case recorded in which 3 gr. of it have proved fatal to an adult.

And how much was in this bottle?—Half an ounce—200 odd grains.

Mr. Clay: That is the first case, your Worship.

Mr. Swifte: What is the penalty?

Mr. Clay: Five pounds in each case. I will now take up the second summons against Messrs. Lafayette (Limited).

This was in respect to the oxalate of potash. Mr. Doyle proved the purchase, and Professor Tichborne the analysis and nature of the article.

The other cases were then proceeded with. The same articles had been bought at Mr. Laphen's place, and the fact was proved.

Mr. Swifte: I do not think these people appreciated the importance of these proceedings. The Messrs. Lafayette only send an employé, and Mr. Laphen does not appear at all.

Mr. Clay: Some of these persons were cautioned previously, so that the Society did not take them suddenly. There are others that we have not prosecuted to-day, and if this practice be stopped we do not wish to prosecute any more. In the discharge of our duty, however, we must protect the public.

Professor Tichborne again gave evidence; and after Mr. Clay had remarked upon these deadly poisons having been obtained without the slightest restriction,

The two purchases in Mr. Victor Smith's establishment were dealt with. Mr. Doyle and Professor Tichborne gave evidence as before.

Mr. Smith said he had no questions to ask.

The Magistrate desired to know if he could not mitigate the penalty, and Mr. Clay submitted that he had no power.

Mr. Swifte: To whom does the penalty go—to your Society?

Mr. Clay: One-third to the Inspector and two-thirds to the Society.

Mr. Swifte: Would you be satisfied if I put 5*l.* on one of these cases?

Mr. Clay pointed out that some cases cost the Society 15*l.*, and recalled a recent decision in which Mr. Justice O'Brien said "We are clearly of opinion that it was the duty of the Magistrates to impose a fine on the defendant of 5*l.*, and no less sum."

Mr. Swifte: Five pounds on each summons is very large. These defendants have not had professional assistance, and I will look into the matter.

Mr. Clay: One of them was duly warned on the matter, but he did not attend to it.

Mr. Swifte: It is a very serious offence.

Mr. Clay: I ask for the full penalty in each case. The Society makes nothing out of these prosecutions—on the contrary loses by them, and the deficit has to be met out of the members' subscriptions.

Mr. Swifte asked Mr. Smith, one of the defendants, what he had to say.

Mr. Smith: I did not know I was doing wrong in selling these things. I thought it was the universal custom, and I believe it to be so still. I never got any warning. If I had known it was against the law I would not have done it.

Mr. Clay: If you read the *Photographic News* you must have seen that there were dozens of these prosecutions in England.

Mr. Smith: I only read the *Irish Times* (laughter).

Mr. Swifte: Mr. Laphen does not now appear. I will fine him 5*l.* in each case.

Mr. Clay: The President of the Pharmaceutical Society is in Court, and he informs me that there was advertised in the *Irish Times* a warning against this very offence, so that it is idle for Mr. Smith to say that he did not know. Besides, in Mr. Smith's case the bottles were labelled "Poison."

Messrs Lafayette's Representative: In our case it was labelled "Poison" also.

Mr. Clay: Only on one of them.

Mr. Swifte said he would take time to consider his judgment in Messrs. Lafayette's and Mr. Smith's cases. Five pounds on each summons was pretty high, and he would see if he had not power to mitigate the penalty.

On Thursday March 14, Mr. Swifte gave his judgment in the cases of Messrs. Lafayette and of Mr. Smith. Mr. Byrne appeared for Messrs. Lafayette (Limited), and argued that the Magistrate (Mr. Swifte) had power to reduce the penalty, while Mr. Collins, for the Pharmaceutical Society, argued to the contrary. The following is Mr. Swifte's judgment:—

He said that the practice since 1875 had been to impose the penalty of 5*l.* in such cases as these, but there had been several

departures from it, and in the years 1894 and 1895 he himself had mitigated the penalties in three cases. The first case was against Mrs. Alice Rupert, in which, under extenuating circumstances, he reduced the penalty to 1*l*. The second case was against Messrs. Fannin, where he made the penalty 3*0s.* and 5*s.* costs; and in the third case—against a Mrs. Barnes—he imposed a fine of 3*l*. In these three cases he had exercised the power of mitigation, which he held he possessed; and the Society was evidently satisfied that he possessed the power, as no application was made to have these decisions reviewed. The 30th section of the Pharmacy Act stated that a person guilty of such offence shall be liable to pay a penalty of 5*l*.; it did not mention a word about “not less than 5*l*.” The case of Morgan and Kelly (quoted by Mr. Collins) was entirely distinguishable from the present cases or the ones he had previously decided, because it was not contended that the Petty Sessions Court had any power to mitigate the penalty. In the Act of 1890 the words were “not exceeding 5*l*.,” and the real point was whether that subsequent Act overruled the Act of 1875. There was an English case—that of *Osborne v. Wood Brothers*—stated by the Justices of Lancashire. The prosecution was for a violation of the Cotton-cloth Factory Act of 1889, by reason of the factory atmosphere being allowed to contain more than a certain proportion of damp. In the Act of 1889 the penalty was made “not less than 5*l*.,” but Section 4 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act allowed power to the Magistrates to reduce the fine. This they did, and inflicted a fine of 20*s.* Justices Wills and Wright held that the appeal must succeed, and that the Magistrates had no power to reduce the fine under the Act, which was subsequent to the Summary Jurisdiction Act. These were the three ways in which the penalty might be stated—“not exceeding 5*l*.,” “not less than 5*l*.,” and a “penalty of 5*l*.” In the “not exceeding 5*l*.,” it was admitted that, without the mitigating section at all, the Magistrates could mitigate; in the case of “not less than 5*l*.,” the penalty could not be mitigated; so that it was only in the case of “a penalty of 5*l*.,” that the power of mitigation was at all required. He held he had the power. The defendants here had undertaken not to repeat the offence, and as there were two summonses against each defendant he would impose the substantial penalty of 2*l*. 10*s.* on each summons.

Mr. Collins said that the Council of the Society met on the following day. This was a serious matter for the Society, which had to protect the public from being poisoned; and, if they decided to contest his Worship's decision, he would ask leave to have a case stated, assuming that the Society desired to have the judgment reviewed.

Mr. Swift said he would certainly state a case.

Letter to the Editor.

Chemistry Studies.

SIR,—I was surprised to find the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society have decreed that, prior to attending practical chemistry lectures, each candidate for the Final examination shall take a four months' course in elementary chemistry. As Mr. Baxter intimated at the Council meeting, this regulation will cripple the movements of country students. Even if the elementary chemistry course were permitted concurrently with the practical course, the students' position would be considerably bettered. The vacant school seems the real reason for the regulation. In my opinion a protracted stay in the city to prepare for the Final examination will be both expensive and undesirable; and when the country aspirant emerges from the examination-hall he may find his actual worth in marks “docked” for want of proper pose, appearance, and demeanour at the counter, according to the judgment of some whimsical examiner.

Yours faithfully,
IRISH PHARMACIST. (111/65.)

IPECAC: “What noise is that I hear?” Senna: “Oh, that is the peel of the lemon.”

A BEER STORY.—One of Liverpool's leading physicians, anxious to gain clinical information regarding the arsenic in beer, looked in to see a case under treatment. A patient was shown him, and it was pointed out how well marked the “pigmentation” was. “Yes,” replied the caller, “but when was the patient last washed?” “Oh! that has nothing to do with it,” was the answer. However, the physician mildly insisted, and on a trial of soap and water the “pigmentation well marked” disappeared.

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Opinions on the New Edition of the “Art of Dispensing.”

As far as I have at present been able to form an opinion, it appears to be a work which will be of great usefulness to all engaged in dispensing or compounding. The information it conveys is considerable and up to date, whilst the advice it offers in doubtful and difficult cases seems to be generally judicious. Combined with practical work it ought to be especially valuable to apprentices and pupils.—Mr. WALTER HILLS, F.C.S.

In its present form this work constitutes the *vade mecum* of the dispensing chemist, and it will be found of great service by practitioners who continue, in accordance with custom, to dispense their own medicines. The more than perfunctory instruction which medical students receive in the practical details of dispensary work renders some such technical guide indispensable, unless mixtures and pills are to be sent out *a la grace de Dieu*, reckless of appearance, of compatibility of constituents, and of therapeutical activity. A work of this kind, primarily intended for chemists, naturally comprises much information which is not required by the dispensing practitioner, but incidentally it affords much practical instruction of a kind not contained in any book likely to be at the disposal of the latter. The practitioner will find some useful hints in the preparation of pills—for, in spite of the activity of pill-makers, one is still occasionally constrained to carry out this tedious operation. The principal value of the work, however, as far as the practitioner is concerned, lies in the chapters on “mixtures” of various kinds, including emulsions. Many medicinal substances can only be reduced to mixture-form by special means, and all idiosyncracies of this kind are carefully explained, and the way to circumvent them given. The “doctrine of incompatibilities” is fully gone into; and there are few dispensers—yea, even prescribers—who will not gain by devoting a little time to mastering its principal features. There is also a very useful appendix in a synopsis of new remedies. We have nothing but praise for the way in which the editing of this work has been carried out, and we may safely commend it to the favourable notice of our readers.—*Medical Press.*

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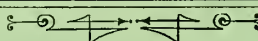
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